



THE INDEPENDENT

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IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW WITH EDUCATION

Hague sacks Cranborne in row over Lords

BY ANDREW GRICE AND COLIN BROWN

LORD CRANBORNE, the Tory leader in the House of Lords, was sacked by William Hague last night after the Conservative leader torpedoed a surprise plan by Tony Blair to grant a reprieve to 91 hereditary peers.

Mr Blair's move to reach an all-party consensus on reform of the Lords split the Tories and threw them into disarray last night. Lord Cranborne was ready to compromise but failed to win Mr Hague's backing.

The proposed agreement had been discussed behind the scenes for several months and included meetings between Lord Cranborne and Mr Blair within the past two weeks. But Mr Hague's allies accused Lord Cranborne of "freelancing" without his authority.

The secret talks emerged in extraordinary scenes during Prime Minister's question time yesterday, when Mr Blair and Mr Hague clashed over the breakdown of the negotiations.

Under a U-turn backed by Mr Blair, 91 hereditaries would have survived when the other 650 lose their right to speak and vote in the Lords, preventing a year of "guerrilla warfare" over reform of the second chamber. The 91 would remain until the Government implemented "stage two" of its reforms, turning it into a partly elected chamber within several years.

Lord Cranborne, a hereditary peer and the great-great-grandson of Lord Salisbury, the Tory prime minister, won the backing of Tory peers for his consensual strategy by a margin of about



William Hague faces a peers revolt over the sacking

4-1. This was a severe rebuff for Mr Hague, who insisted the Tories could not support the plan until Mr Blair spelt out the detail of "stage two".

The Earl of Onslow said after the meeting: "As far as I'm concerned Lord Cranborne is totally secure and he got the full support of the meeting." He later described his departure as "an absolute tragedy".

But a furious Mr Hague felt he was left with no option but to sack the Opposition leader in the Lords. This was announced after Mr Hague won the backing of the Shadow Cabinet and held a private meeting with Lord Cranborne and Michael Ancram, the Tory chairman.

"Lord Cranborne tried to bounce the party into accepting a deal which it would not accept," Mr Hague's spokesman said. Lord Cranborne said he had been "sacked for running in like an ill-trained spaniel" over the row with Mr Hague.

Tension between the two had been rising in recent weeks. Mr Hague also overruled the peer's move to adopt a more conciliatory line in the current parliamentary session to the Bill bringing in proportional representation for European Parliament elections.

Mr Hague now faces a rebellion by Tory peers. Lord Cranborne is a popular figure and rumours swept Westminster last night that other front-bench spokesmen in the Lords may resign in protest to form a breakaway group which would support the compromise plan when it is put to a vote.

Although Mr Hague's allies said he had shown strong leadership by sacking Lord Cranborne, some MPs were privately worried the Tory leader would be blamed for scuppering an attempt to reach consensus on Lords reform.

"The hereditaries want to find a way of dying with digni-

ty, but Mr Hague is the only person who wants them to die in the ditch," said a Liberal Democrat source.

Downing Street said the consensus would have freed up more parliamentary time and allowed the Government to introduce other measures in the current session, including the postponed plans to set up a Food Standards Agency and a Strategic Rail Authority.

In return, the Government would have speeded up its "stage two" reform plan.

Talks on the agreement involved Lord Cranborne, Mr Blair, Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor and Baroness Jay, the leader of the Lords. The cross-bench peers played a pivotal role and announced their compromise plan yesterday, unaware that Mr Hague had torpedoed it minutes earlier.

Lord Weatherill, the former Commons speaker who acts as convener of the crossbenchers, said he would be disappointed if the deal they had brokered was rejected.

He warned that the alternative to a mutually agreed solution was "war, people with fixed bayonets, fighting in the last ditch, which would be ridiculous, bringing the House of Lords into disrepute".

The crossbenchers will try to keep the proposal alive by tabling their plan as an amendment to the Bill on hereditaries, which will be introduced in the new year. Labour ministers said last night the deal was "still possible" and hoped it would go through.

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Lord Cranborne, who said he was sacked by Mr Hague for running in 'like an ill-trained spaniel'

UPP

Flawed logic led to brilliant pupil's death

BY LOUISE JURY

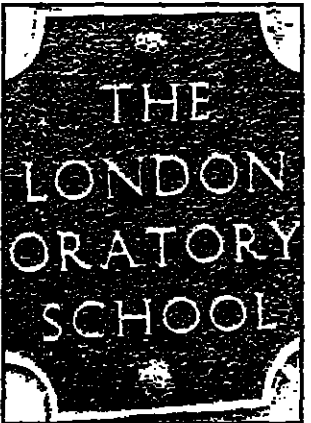
A BRILLIANT schoolboy shot himself in the head after carefully calculating the benefits of life and deciding it was not worth living an inquest heard yesterday.

Dario Iacoponi, 15, a pupil at the London Oratory School which Tony Blair's two sons Euan, 14, and Nicky, 12, attend, kept a diary of his philosophical thoughts on life in the two months leading up to his death.

After weighing up the pros and cons, he decided to commit suicide and planned it meticulously. He taught himself to use his father's shotgun and worked out how to fit it with a wooden spoon. He then waited until neither of his parents was at home before carrying out the plan last month.

Dr John Burton, the West London coroner, said it was clearly a considered process and Dario "came down on the side of suicide".

The inquest heard that the teenager was a brilliant pupil who had already passed six GCSEs at A* or A grades a year early. He played the violin and



piano and was hoping to study law at Yale or Harvard. But a darker side to his character emerged in his diaries which spoke of his difficulties in coping with life, although there was little, or no mention, of any specific problem such as bullying.

Dario, an only child, was found by a 20-year-old lodger at the family's home in Ealing, west London. He had a shotgun by his side.

His father, Pietro, a translator, was in Switzerland on business, and his mother, Saleni, a

teacher, was at an amateur dramatics class.

Inspector Colin Nursey, who found five diaries covering the last year of Dario's life, said there was a reference in them contemplating suicide. "He would not leave a note, he was very specific about that," he said.

Neither parent was in court, but Nadia Taylor, a family friend for the past 15 years, told the inquest that Dario was "always a very sociable and very friendly person". She said: "We are all very shocked. It all came as a surprise to us that he felt this way."

But Dr Burton said he could see no other conclusion than that Dario had taken his own life. "He has made it clear that he did so. That is the only verdict that I can return."

"He was quite stoical about it. He did not fear death. He decided on balance that life is not good and points out that the mathematics he has used are indisputable and that is his last entry. It was a considered process."

Dario's headmaster, John McIntosh, has said he was baffled and the school was shocked.

Santer: We may end veto on tax reforms

THE EUROSCEPTIC alarm over the threat of tax harmonisation hitting Britain was fuelled yesterday by Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, when he refused to rule out an end to the national veto on EU tax proposals.

Tony Blair will today re-emphasise Britain's readiness to use the veto if necessary to prevent any moves which would damage national interests when he meets President Jacques Chirac for an Anglo-French summit in St Malo in Brittany.

Mr Blair told MPs yesterday that Britain was prepared to stand alone in Europe if necessary in opposition to plans for greater tax harmonisation.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman attacked the "hysteria" in the British media about the apparent push towards tax harmonisation by Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, and his French counterpart, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, at a Franco-German meeting on Tuesday.

That view was shared by Mr Santer, who said: "When I read the British press, I sometimes think I find myself in a dif-

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
IN BRUSSELS
AND COLIN BROWN

ferent world, not the world that I want."

But Mr Santer added to the controversy by arguing for further co-ordination of VAT rates, and refusing to rule out the possibility that countries may eventually lose the veto on tax decisions.

The two-day summit meeting between Britain and France was intended to be dominated by an Anglo-French statement of co-operation on defence, leading to the replacement of the Western European Union



defence arm by an EU defence policy.

But the meeting is almost certain to be overshadowed by the thorny issue of taxation. Mr Blair will be accompanied by other senior ministers, including John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who will be discussing co-operation on transport, the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Cook today will try to damp down the expected Tory attack in a debate in the Commons on Europe by making it clear there is no threat of tax harmonisation while the Government retains the veto. He will also tell MPs that tax harmonisation does not mean all EU members states have to have the same tax regimes.

Mr Santer supported arguments made by Mr Lafontaine that progress on tax matters would in the long run require a shift to majority voting, but added: "For the time being we have got the treaty and we have to be guardians of that treaty."

Blair's deal, page 2

For Christmas I'm hoping for a sponsor.



Shamira is four years old and survives under the constant threat of malnutrition. Tragically, in parts of Nepal only one in four children survive to see their fifth birthday.

Here's how you can help children in situations like this.

By sponsoring just one child through ActionAid you can support the whole community, helping to provide access to safe clean water, healthcare and education. Enabling children like Shamira to escape from hunger, and poverty and to have a self-sufficient future.

As a sponsor you will see how your contribution is making a real difference, thanks to regular up dates from our field workers and messages from the child you sponsor.

Join the many people who already sponsor a child, contact us today. In return we'll send you a free information pack with a photo of a child hoping for sponsorship.

And after all, what better Christmas present can you give a child than a future?

Please send me further details about sponsoring a child, or call 01460 61073.

I'm interested in sponsoring in:
☐ Africa ☐ Asia ☐ Where need is greatest

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

Tel (Day)

(Even)

I can't sponsor a child now, but enclose a gift of:
☐ £200 ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £

Make cheques/POs payable to ActionAid, and send to:
ActionAid,
FREEPOST BS4868,
Chard, Somerset
TA20 1BR.



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A health trust recalled 40 women for checks as a surgeon quit after deaths
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An East End gangster doing well by doing bad
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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Be afraid. Be very afraid. There's a purple dinosaur in town and he wants your kids

THE MARK STEEL COLUMN. EVERY FRIDAY

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MURRAY, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCILVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH



Last of a long line of great Tory aristocrats

OFTEN DESCRIBED as the last great Tory 'aristo', Viscount Cranborne's demise ends more than a 100 years of Parliamentary tradition of one of the greatest Conservative dynasties.

The great-great-grandson of the Prime Minister Lord Salisbury was widespread respect for the way in which he marshalled his troops to inflict defeat after defeat on the Government in the House of Lords.

Yet Robert Cecil Cranborne, the seventh Marquis of Salisbury, carried a sense of "noblesse oblige" that seems finally to have led to his sacking last night.

Although he fought vigorously against the Government's plans to reform the Lords, as a hereditary peer himself, he realised that his days were numbered and was open to compromise.

Lord Cranborne, "Cranbo"

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

to his friends, became Leader of the House of Lords in 1994, and then opposition Leader after the last election.

Educated at Eton and Oxford, he sat as MP for Dorset South for 16 years. He showed little interest in promotion and gave up his seat in 1987. He had achieved notoriety as an MP after offering his freelance services to the Mujahedin resisting the Soviet regime in Afghanistan.

He was persuaded by his old friend John Major to re-enter Parliament in 1992, when he was summoned to the Upper House with his family name. When he offered his resignation after the 1997 election defeat, Mr Hague refused to accept it.

The family gave its name to the "Salisbury Convention", established by the 5th Marquis, which states that the House of

Lords will not frustrate the House of Commons when the latter is expressing the overwhelming will of the electorate. It appears that Lord Cranborne's own commitment to the convention has led to his downfall.

When the Government lost the European Elections Bill at the end of the last session of Parliament, he offered what appeared to be a truce by stating that Tory peers would respect the convention.

The peace offer infuriated Mr Hague, who reversed it the following day. When Lord Cranborne decided to offer a similar "freelance" deal on Lords reform, Mr Hague's fury resulted in his sacking.

When he was asked recently where his career was heading, Lord Cranborne gave a startling answer: "I'm not a bank clerk," he said. "I don't have a career." Today, he certainly doesn't.



Pupils from Carr Junior School, York, experiencing life as navies during a drama workshop at the city's National Railway Museum yesterday

Joan Russell

Blair in new deal on EU defence

THE BRITISH and French governments are expected to agree a common approach to European Union defence policy following a broadly successful meeting between foreign and defence ministers in Paris yesterday.

The text of a possible statement - formally dropping Britain's long-standing opposition to EU involvement in defence matters - is likely to be agreed when the political top brass meets for the annual Anglo-French summit in St Malo today and tomorrow.

Both British and French sources stressed the "historic" nature of yesterday's meeting - an attempt by the two countries to force the pace on an important European issue, in a manner usually associated with Franco-German summits.

Although some differences remain, Mr Blair, President Chirac and the French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, are expected to agree a statement of principles for negotiations with other European countries - and the US - on the development of an EU capacity to act militarily separately from Nato.

Britain stresses that it is not intended to rival or weaken the western alliance but to provide EU countries with a capability to intervene in European trouble spots (such as the Balkans) when the US is not able, or willing, to do so.

It is understood that some of the unresolved issues are between France and Britain, rather than between France and the US. In other words, there are differences of approach between President Chirac and Mr Jospin and be-

between the French foreign and defence ministries.

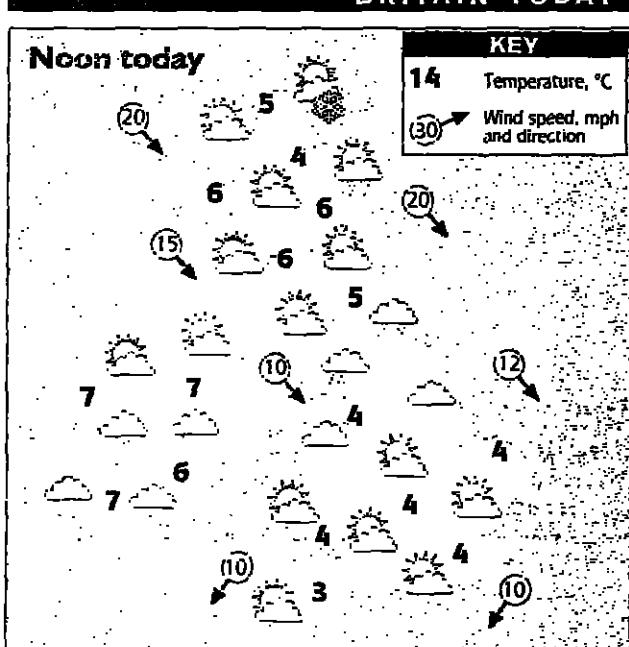
Mr Blair started other European governments in October when he said it was time to have another try at solving the institutional and logistical problems which have defeated earlier attempts to create a European defence identity. The Prime Minister said he was ready to drop Britain's long standing opposition to defence issues being decided at EU level.

It is believed that the St Malo statement would leave open the possibility of the Western European Union, at present a kind of half-way house between Nato and the EU, being brought fully into the EU treaties and institutions. This is something which has been long demanded by the French and Germans.

French officials said the core issue was "how to allow the EU to take over political and strategic management of military operations, including using forces assigned to Nato". Such a development would be extremely welcome to the French. They remain outside the military structures of Nato but have become aware of the limits of their political and military capacity to act alone.

Britain says the overall responsibility of Nato for defending the Continent must not be challenged. But those EU countries willing to do so should create a new decision-making process - and provide the transport, satellite and other logistic hardware - for independent, peace-keeping and punitive actions on the Continent.

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST
General situation: England and Wales will start generally dry but rather cold with patches of fog and frost. The southern half of England and Wales will remain dry with a few spells of sunshine, but a band of cloud and light showers will spread southwards across northern England, north Wales and the north Midlands. Northern Scotland will be colder than in recent days. There will be a mix of sunny spells and wintry showers. Southern Scotland and Northern Ireland will begin the day cloudy with some drizzly rain, but it will become brighter this afternoon.

East S & SE England, London: Some early frost and patches of mist and fog, but generally dry with a few sunny spells. A light north to north-easterly wind. Max temp 4-5C (39-41F).

E Anglia, E England, Midlands: Rather cold again with cloud increasing from the north. Brings one or two showers towards evening. A light northerly wind. Max temp 4-5C (39-41F).

NW England, Cent & NE England, N Wales, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Another cold day with cloud and patchy drizzle spreading southwards. A light north-westerly wind. Max temp 4-6C (39-43F).

Channel Is, SW England, S Wales: Some cloud around but largely dry with a few sunny breaks. A light north-easterly wind. Max temp 5-6C (41-43F).

N Ireland, SW & SE Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh: Early cloud and drizzle soon clearing to leave it cold, but there will be a few sunny spells this afternoon. A moderate north-westerly wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F).

NW & NE Scotland, Aberdeen, W & N Isles: A much colder day than recently. There will be some decent sunny spells, but these will be interspersed by showers, many of them heavy. A strong north-westerly wind. Max temp 5-7C (41-45F).

OUTLOOK
Very cold across the country tomorrow with a strong northerly wind adding to the chill. The north and east will have hail, sleet and snow showers, but sheltered western areas will be mainly sunny after an early frost. Saturday will also be bitterly cold with rain, sleet and snow in the north, but the south should stay dry.

TRAVEL
London: A41 Finchley Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Fortune Green. Major works at Finchley Rd. Division. Unit 31st December. Cambridge: A1 between Alconbury and Haddenham. Construction, lane closures and contrailings. Unit 31st December. Buckinghamshire: M40 between junctions 1a (M25) & 3 (Wycombe East). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Unit 1st January 1999.

Bristol: M5 J16-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Unit 1st January 2001.

Norfolk: A47 Hardwick Roundabout. Kings Lynn (A10). Roadworks between the pylon roundabout and the Hardwick Roundabout. Unit 13th December 1998.

West Yorkshire: M1 between J42 Lofthouse Interchange (M65) and J43 Stourton. Roadworks and a 50 mph speed limit. Unit 31st December 1998.

Cumbria: M6 J57 Kendal. Roadworks, carriageway reduced to 2 lanes both ways with a 50 mph speed limit. 1 mile south of the junction. Unit 19th January 1999.

AA Roadwatch: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

LIGHTING UP

	4.01pm	to	8.26am
Belfast	3.56pm	to	7.53am
Birmingham	4.04pm	to	7.77am
Bristol	3.47pm	to	8.27am
London	3.54pm	to	7.48am
Manchester	3.53pm	to	8.06am
Newcastle	3.42pm	to	8.11am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avonmouth	6.27	13.6	6.54	13.9
Cardiff	4.43	4.6	5.08	4.8
Dover	10.11	6.9	10.39	6.9
Dun Laoghaire	10.53	4.4	11.09	4.5
Galveston	6.27	5.4	4.52	5.4
Greenock	11.54	3.6	-	-
Harwich	11.10	4.1	11.42	4.2
Holyhead	9.36	5.6	9.56	6.0
Hull (Albert Dock)	5.22	8.9	5.56	8.9
Kings Lynn	5.23	7.2	6.00	7.1
Lah	1.31	5.8	2.01	5.9
Liverpool	10.32	9.7	10.54	10.0
Milford Haven	5.28	7.2	5.52	7.3
Newquay	4.21	7.2	4.44	7.3
Portland	10.38	2.3	10.54	2.3
Portsmouth	10.38	5.0	11.00	4.5
Pwllheli	7.24	5.2	7.46	5.3
Scarborough	3.07	8.1	3.38	8.1
Wick	10.42	3.7	11.00	3.8

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY

	NO _x	SO ₂
London	Moderate	Moderate
S England	Moderate	Moderate
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Moderate	Moderate
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	07.46
Sun sets:	15.54
Moon rises:	16.24
Moon sets:	06.59
Full moon:	today

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0800 5009 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

RAIN OR SHINE...

THE ARCTIC blast which has swept Eastern Europe has claimed the lives of thirteen people in Latvia.

Since the front, which has left temperatures rooted at minus 15 degrees Celsius, arrived three weeks ago it has killed dozens of people in Russia and a record 71 people in Poland.

Information by PR WeatherCentre

THE WORLD

Isobars: air pressure in millibars

KEY: — 1024 — pressure in millibars

Low I will sink southwards before becoming slow moving. Low D will move south, gradually filling. High F will edge north-eastwards.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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Tree surgeon axes family to death

A MAN slaughtered his estranged wife and her elderly parents with what is believed to be an axe then shortly afterwards died in his blazing, barricaded home a couple of miles away.

The body of Philip Heyward, 64, a tree surgeon, was found yesterday at his razed house in St Blazey Gate, Cornwall. It is believed he hanged himself.

The bodies of his wife Phyllis Heyward, aged in her fifties, and her parents, Albert and Myra Spring, both in their eighties, were found by Mrs Heyward's sister, Shirley

BY CATHY COMERFORD

Solomon. They had been beaten to death, and had severe head injuries inflicted by what appeared to be a blunt instrument. An axe was recovered from Mr Heyward's house, but police would not say whether it was the murder weapon.

Detective Inspector Dave Rowe said last night no one else was being sought. Mrs Heyward had left her husband six weeks ago and was staying at Ms Solomon's house in St Austell.

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سكرا من الاميل

Your implant will diagnose you now: a vision of medicine in the 21st century

By GLENDA COOPER
AND CHARLES ARTHUR

IT IS A DREAM for some, a nightmare for others. Designer babies, "Star Trek" medical devices, brain implants and womb transplants may sound like fantasy but could all become commonplace in the next half century.

Rather than visiting the local GP we will increasingly live in "intelligent houses" which monitor our health through body implants and consult the Internet to find the expert in our problem. But alongside the array of technological breakthroughs, the darker side of future medicine conjures up a picture of a Brave New World, where brain function could be assessed in the womb and parents who continue with pregnancy knowing their child carries an illness could face stigma and be forced to meet the costs of treatment.

These are some of the predictions made in "Clinical Futures", an analysis of likely changes in medicine over the next 50 years, published today by the British Medical Journal publishing group.

According to David Delpy, Professor of Medical Physics at University College, London, an instant diagnostic device might well work using near-infrared light which can penetrate deep layers of body tissue. "Given developments in computing, allied to the ability of near-infrared light to distinguish the absorption arising from different molecules in the body, we may yet see the day when, like Dr McCoy in Star Trek, the doctor merely waves a machine with flashing lights over the patient to make an instant diagnosis," said Professor Delpy.

He added that there would be increased growth in patients looking after their own health. "Technology is going to push diagnosis right down to the local level," he said. "People are going to diagnose themselves, buying small testing kits in Boots, and monitor their own health, driven increasingly by healthcare insurance."

He suggested there might be lower premiums or no claims bonuses on healthcare insurance for those who monitored their own health carefully. "People



"Clinical Futures." Ed Marshall, Mariner and Sir Michael Peckham, BMJ Books

FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE: HOW THE MEDICINE OF THE FUTURE WILL CHANGE OUR LIVES

ARTIFICIAL WOMBS	DESIGNER BABIES	INTELLIGENT HOUSES	BRAIN TRANSPLANTS	VIRTUAL DOCTORS
WHAT WILL HAPPEN? "Within 10 years it will be possible to transplant a viable foetus... into an artificial environment which will nurture the pregnancy to a point where safe delivery can occur."	DESIGNER BABIES "By cloning sections of DNA that code for physical or mental fitness, genetic engineers will have the potential to produce designer babies, but only for those who can afford it."	INTELLIGENT HOUSES "It is possible to imagine a large proportion of the population having permanent implants which would provide permanent monitoring of the most important physiological parameters."	BRAIN TRANSPLANTS "Nerve cells from transgenic pigs may become commonplace as treatment for Parkinson's disease by 2010... it may take 10-20 more years... to treat spinal cord injuries and other forms of paralysis."	VIRTUAL DOCTORS "Home-based blood sampling and automated drug prescription... may see the demise of the traditional GP. Patient contacts would mostly be with non-medical personnel, with telelinks to specialists."
WHAT ARE WE ABLE TO DO NOW? Last July a Japanese team used a "machine womb" - an open-topped acrylic tank, filled with liquid at blood temperature - to take a 17-week-old goat foetus to term three weeks later. Improvements in intensive care mean human babies born at 24 weeks can survive.	DESIGNER BABIES We have tests for a variety of genetic flaws. A number of clinics claim to be able to let you pick the sex of your child - but it's still hit or miss. But because of ethical worries, nobody has yet tried to alter or control a foetus's genetic makeup, in case it does more harm than good.	INTELLIGENT HOUSES In August Professor Kevin Warwick, at Reading University, implanted a silicon chip under his skin so hi-tech buildings could remotely sense his presence. Monitoring the body's processes only needs miniaturisation of systems that already exist to monitor our vital signs.	BRAIN TRANSPLANTS The 37-year-old actor Michael J Fox, who has Parkinson's, had brain surgery in March in an attempt to lessen its effect on his nervous system. Others are also having experimental surgery to try to ward off similar diseases. The problem is how to get the "new" nerve tissue to work.	VIRTUAL DOCTORS Pregnant women on the Isle of Wight can talk to specialists in London who view their ultrasound pictures over telephone links. The availability of the Internet and mail-order genetic testing has meant more people can do self-diagnosis. GPs lose out to specialists in pay terms too.
WHAT WILL THE EFFECTS BE? The fertility expert Lord Winston said last year. "A technique like this (artificial womb) may well save a number of (premature) babies that would otherwise die." The artificial placenta would let their lungs develop more fully.	DESIGNER BABIES Huge. It would magnify the gap between rich and poor because only the former would be able to pay for, and benefit from, the treatment. However, sex would remain a cheap way to acquire "quality" genes.	INTELLIGENT HOUSES It's important for older people and those at risk of acute illness such as heart attacks. Rapid treatment always improves the quality of recovery, and with a growing number of older people that could be a key factor.	BRAIN TRANSPLANTS Degenerative brain diseases are the curse of an ageing population. Rejuvenating our nerves could transform our later lives, and help younger people with debilitating diseases. Curing paralysis is the Holy Grail of this field.	VIRTUAL DOCTORS People are more honest about divulging medical problems to machines - and tend not to argue with the diagnosis. For harder cases, telemedicine means you can speak to the top specialist in the country, wherever they are.
IS IT REALISTIC? Yes, though it will be a long, long time - if ever - before it completely replaces the biological womb and its subtle effects on the embryo.	DESIGNER BABIES "Gene therapy", to control and shape our DNA, promises much, but has so far not delivered. Mastering it could take decades.	INTELLIGENT HOUSES The only obstacles are cost, which is minor, and privacy - would you want all that personal data being beamed about?	BRAIN TRANSPLANTS Yes: experimental implants are already going ahead in animals, and we understand more about the brain and nerves every day.	VIRTUAL DOCTORS Definitely. The trends are heading very strongly towards more specialists and fewer GPs: the Internet is accelerating it.

are also going to be consulting across the Internet, finding the consultant who has the most expertise in their particular problem and then dashing around Europe to get themselves treated. This also means the role of doctors is going to change quite significantly.

Professor Delpy foresees a world where body implants would monitor blood pressure, heart rate and other health indicators. They could be linked to the "intelligent house" which would continuously monitor data from the implants, spotting anything from a cold to an impending heart attack.

Seen as particularly useful

device for elderly people living alone, the house could look after its inhabitant by booking appointments with doctors or adjusting a diet by controlling the ordering or cooking of the right foods.

"Everybody will be so inter-linked that a large part of routine functions will go on around you without you knowing," said Professor Delpy. "Your car will be driven out ready for you in the morning and your breakfast will start cooking itself."

In cancer treatment, one specialist predicted that a "golden age" of drug discovery and gene therapy would begin. Early forms of gene therapy

for cancer are being attempted and more would be tried. One approach would be to tag cancer cells to make them more visible to the body's immune system. Alternatively, cancer cells could be tagged with genes that make them better targets for anti-cancer drugs.

With an ageing population, cancer incidence will inevitably rise. But Karl Sikora, Professor of International Cancer Medicine at the Imperial College School of Medicine, said that by 2020 concerted action against smoking could reduce cancer incidence by 20 per cent, and dietary modifications a further 20 per cent.

Leslie Iverson, Visiting Professor at the department of pharmacology at Oxford University, predicted remarkable developments in brain and nerve repair. Brain cell transplants, when foetal cells are injected into the damaged area of the brain, would help tackle degenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

New techniques will also be used to regenerate nerve fibres, by finding ways to bridge the scarring between damaged nerves, using powerful chemical promoters of nerve cell growth. "The prospect of making the blind see again and the deaf hear will remain an elusive

but not impossible goal in this field of research," he said.

For those with weight problems, anti-obesity drugs which target the centres of the brain which control weight could be developed. Then it may be possible to provide a treatment regime that would permanently readjust the body weight control system downwards (or upwards for anorexics).

Genes that predispose people to mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, manic depression, and even addiction to drugs or alcohol, would be identified and screened out.

But Catherine Peckham, Professor of Paediatric Medi-

cine at the Institute of Child Health, said that the advances in technology must be accompanied by a debate on the influence this had on society.

She predicted that artificial wombs could become a reality within 10 years. And by cloning sections of DNA that contribute to physical or mental fitness, and screening out unwanted characteristics, genetic engineers would have the ability to produce designer babies. "I think they could become a possibility, but I hope they won't," she said yesterday.

Because of the inherent risks in multiple births, pressure to abort one of naturally

occurring twins could be brought to bear in order to reduce the risk of disability.

Increased knowledge of how childhood development affects adult health might promote aggressive state "nannyism".

"In an era when adoptable children will become increasingly scarce, child confiscation might become the preferred method of enhancing living conditions for children, rather than attempts at across-the-board improvements," she said.

Despite this the scientists all said they saw the future as optimistic. "There is great potential and it is very exciting," said Professor Peckham.

Breast cancer alert for 40 women as doctor quits

A HEALTH TRUST has recalled 40 women for breast checks as a part of a review into the work of a surgeon after the deaths of two of his patients.

David Baumber has now resigned from his job as a consultant surgeon for Bury Healthcare NHS Trust in Greater Manchester.

Mr Baumber had not worked for the Trust since April when a male patient in his 40s, for whose post-operative care he had been responsible, died after general surgery.

Following concerns raised by nursing staff, the case of a second patient under Mr Baumber's care, who had died after general surgery, was re-examined.

The second deceased was a woman in her 60s. Concern was expressed about the level of post-operative care. As a re-

By CATHY COMERFORD

sult of the two cases the trust ordered an independent review into Mr Baumber's work at Bury General Hospital and at the nearby Fairfield Hospital.

The review criticised the management of post-operative care of both patients but said that it was not clear whether care management had contributed to their deaths.

A spokesman for the trust, which runs both hospitals, said that a further review of more than 600 of Mr Baumber's cases was under way, and a team of health-care experts had been called in to examine 460 breast-work cases in detail. Of those, 40 had been recalled for a mammogram.

A 24-hour helpline had been set up to provide counselling for

women treated by Mr Baumber for breast problems.

Hugh Lamont, head of communications for the regional office of the NHS executive, said: "There were criticisms of patient management. The families of the two people and the coroners were kept informed, but the review did not find any cases where the outcome was affected."

"The trust has set up four special clinics and all the women have been contacted. The first nine were all in the clear and the rest are expected to hear today or next week."

Umesh Prabhu, medical director of the trust, told *The Independent*: "The operations were very good, but when the patient developed complications the post-operative care was ill-managed."

"As a surgeon you have two

choices: you either observe, or you go in quickly and operate again. It was felt he had not acted quickly enough."

"The review could not say for sure if the surgery would have done anything to alter the prognosis. You can never be absolutely certain."

Mr Prabhu would not describe the surgery carried out as this would breach patient confidentiality. But he said that the families of both patients had been fully apprised of the situation.

"We have been very honest with the relatives," he said.

The trust yesterday emphasised that the investigation was only a precautionary measure.

In a statement it said that details would be made public but that its primary concern remained the welfare of the 40 patients.

Anger as Royal Court puts sponsor's name up in lights

SIR PETER Hall yesterday criticised a deal by which a private company will have its name in lights outside one of the country's most historic venues, the Royal Court Theatre in London.

Sir Peter, former director of the National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company, said the £3m deal with the Jerwood Foundation was a "typical sign of the times... The Royal Court isn't the Jerwood theatre. It has 100 years of history, and Jerwood are buying those 100 years for £3m."

The playwright Harold Pinter said he found the decision "confusing". Bill Alexander, artistic director of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, said: "It's horrible... It will be a crying shame if the only way that theatres can get money

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

from sponsors in the future is to do this."

Under the deal the Jerwood Foundation will give the publicly subsidised theatre the final £3m needed to complete its £26m rebuilding costs.

It had originally wanted the Royal Court to change its name to the Jerwood Theatre but after an outcry a compromise was reached between the Royal Court chairman, the writer Sir John Mortimer, and the Jerwood chairman, Alan Grieve.

However, the deal, though it allows the Royal Court to keep its name, will enable Jerwood to have its name in lights above the theatre's Sloane Square home. The Royal Court had



Hall: 'A sign of the times'

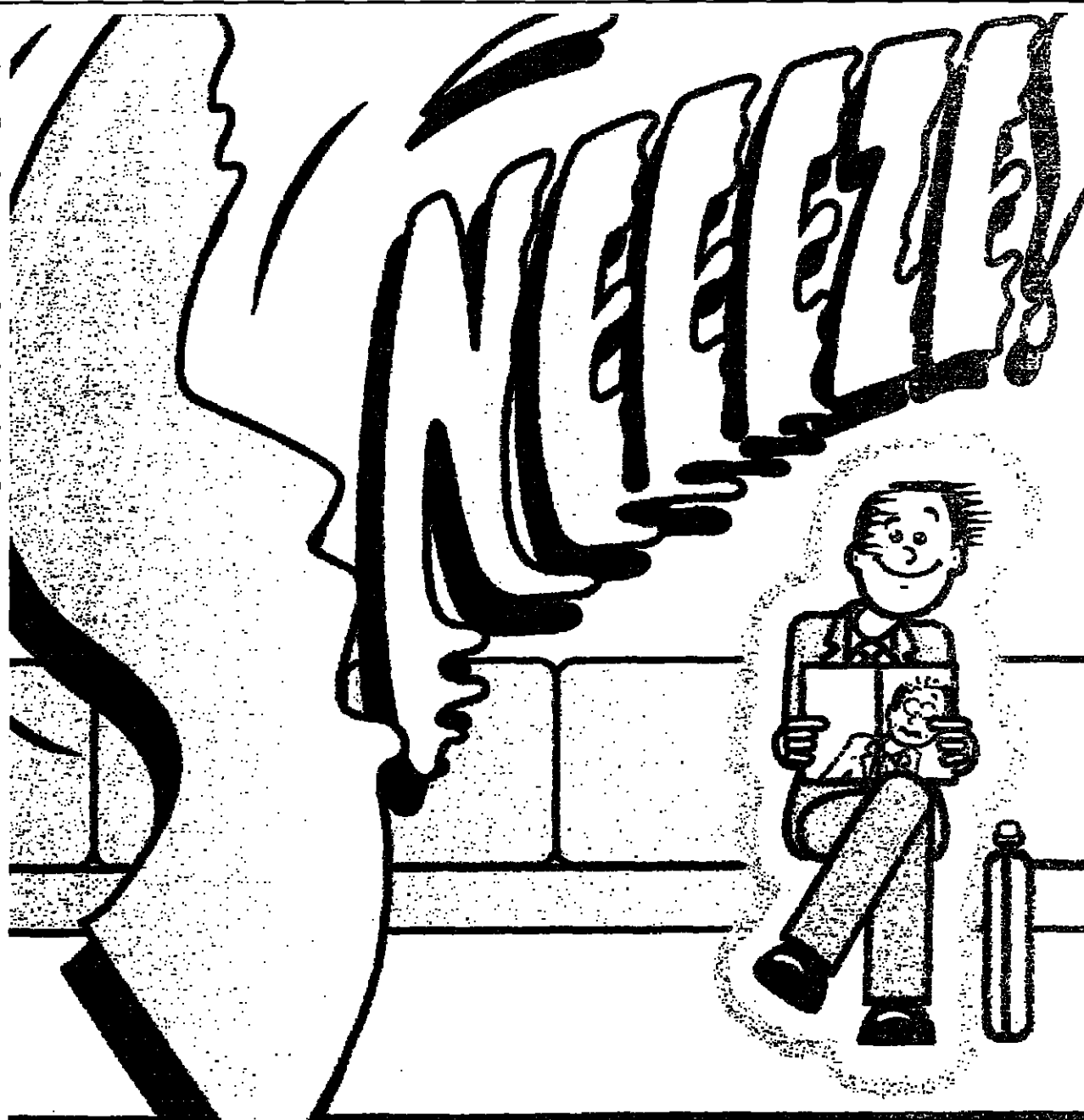
been threatened with going into liquidation next year, still needing £3m to complete rebuilding. The agreement means the

Royal Court's two auditoria will be called Jerwood Theatre Downstairs and Jerwood Theatre Upstairs.

Outside, the original stone and ironwork on the facade will still read Royal Court Theatre, but a neon sign above the main entrance will highlight the Jerwood Foundation's support with the wording "The Jerwood Theatres at the Royal Court Theatre".

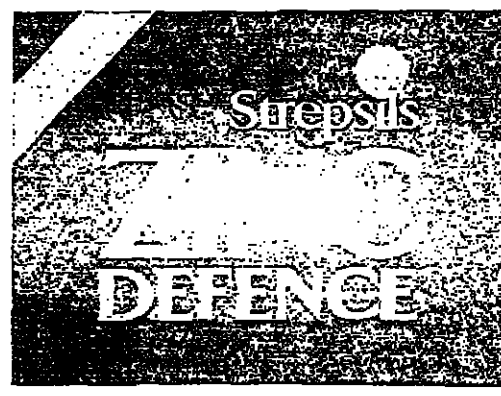
Sir John said: "I am enormously relieved that the negotiations have been... resolved and we can now go forward to provide a rebuilt and hugely improved theatre for new writing."

Mr Grieve said: "We have had a robust debate on our proposed capital funding... We have now achieved a reasoned way forward."



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Extradition: Lawyers' fees of up to £3,000 a day are being paid by former dictator, who is also paying Crown's costs

Legal bill for Pinochet is £12,000 a day

GENERAL AUGUSTO PINOCHET is running up legal expenses of up to £12,000 a day in his fight against extradition, according to details of his lawyers' bills obtained by *The Independent*.

Senior counsel are understood to have averaged as much as £3,000 per day, while junior members of his five-strong team of barristers are billing averages of up to £500 for daily "preparation" sessions. Add an estimated daily rate of £4,500 for solicitors and the resultant fees are expected to top £1m before Christmas.

After the House of Lords overturned a High Court ruling that General Pinochet could not be extradited to Spain to answer charges of torture and murder, an earlier order giving him costs from central funds was overturned. That means the former dictator must pay not only his own costs, but also those of the Crown Prosecution Service, which represents the Spanish in legal proceedings.

By STEVE BOGGAN AND KIM SENGUPTA



Pinochet: Luxury refuge

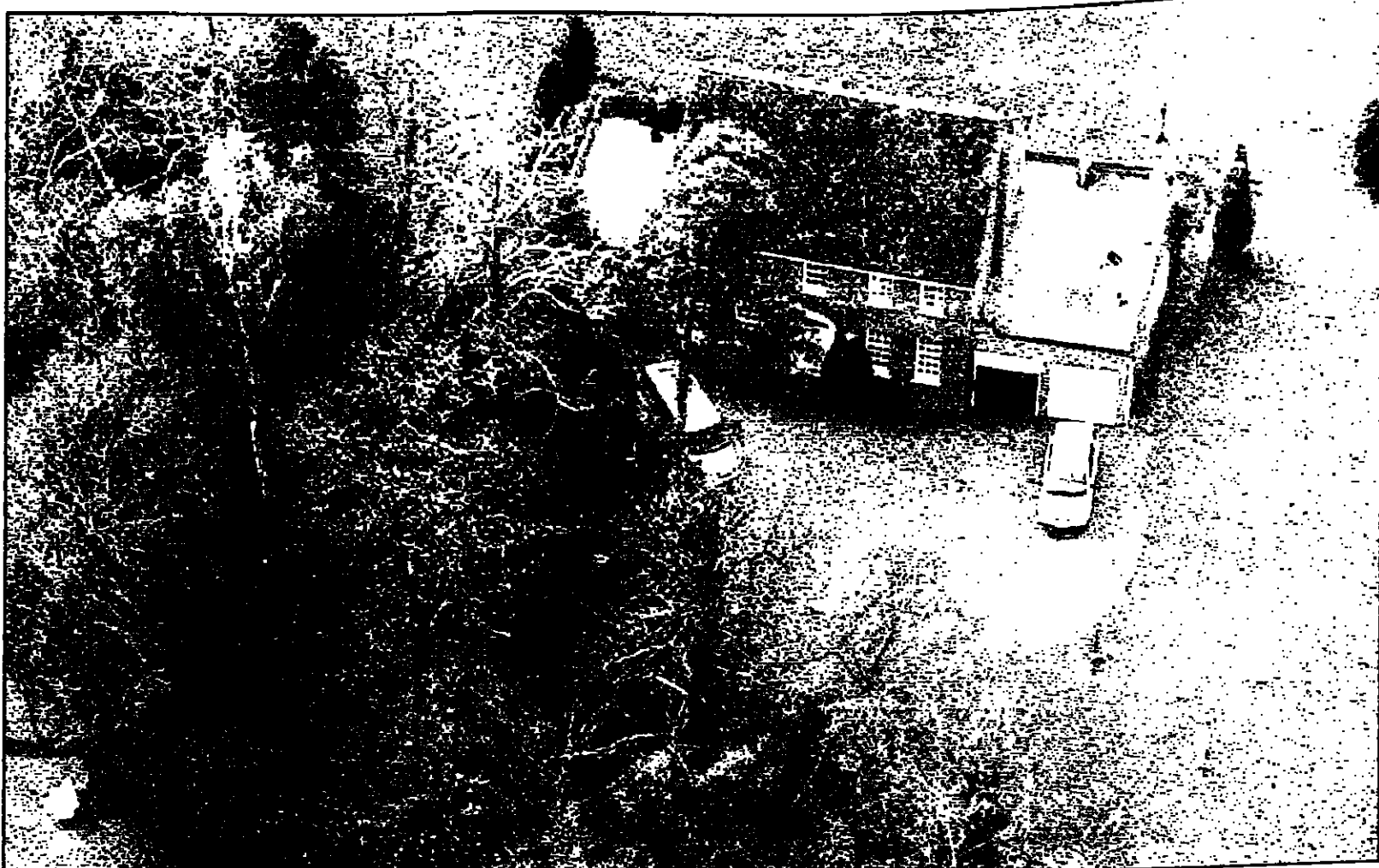
Costs for the three-day High Court hearing alone were put at about £400,000.

The Independent has obtained details of the bills already being faced by the Pinochet camp. He is represented in court by two Queens Counsel, Clive Nicholls and Clare Mont-

gomery, and three junior counsel, Helen Malcolm, James Cameron and Julian Knowles. All but Mr Cameron are from 3 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, central London, which specialises in extradition cases.

An examination of billing reveals Ms Montgomery has been averaging 6.6 hours a day on the case, at a rate of £350 per hour — or £2,306 per day. Between 29 October and 11 November, she billed £53,054.05. Sources within the Inns of Court said yesterday the leading counsel, Clive Nicholls, would receive up to £500 an hour.

The junior counsel is by no means cheap. Helen Malcolm averaged 5.99 hours per day at £150 per hour during a 28-day period, running up fees of £25,162.50. Counsel's instructing solicitors are Kingsley Napley, among the country's most ruthlessly successful. Between three and four solicitors, led by Michael Caplan, senior partner, are working on the case. Mr Ca-



An aerial view of General Pinochet's temporary new home, Everglades, on the exclusive Wentworth Estate in Surrey

Jeremy Selwyn

plan's fees are put conservatively at £250 per hour. Fees for the others are thought to range from £200 to £150 per hour. Bills of £7,500 from the barristers and £4,500 from the solicitors could be expected.

The Crown Prosecution Service was represented by four

barristers during the Lords hearing. A spokeswoman said yesterday that a team of four is working full-time on the case but she could not provide details of the costs being incurred.

General Pinochet yesterday settled into a new temporary home on the exclusive Went-

worth Estate in Surrey. Anastasia Cliffe was astonished to discover her family's former home is now refuge for an alleged mass murderer.

"When we were there we had trouble with people coming to see the Bee Gees, but never, ever anything like this," she

said. "The house is not particularly luxurious by Wentworth standards but it is very private and secluded."

General Pinochet moved to the house in Virginia Water after being asked to leave the private hospital where he had been staying after a back operation. The rental for the house, Everglades in Lindale Close, is said to be £10,000 a month. The tree-lined residential area now has road blocks.

A group of businessmen in Chile is raising funds for General Pinochet's defence. An official at the Pinochet Foundation said the general was not

wealthy, and needed the help. Carlos Carceres, the president of the Chilean subsidiary of British American Tobacco is said to be a leading contributor, and the general is also receiving the support of Miguel Schweitzer, a Chilean ambassador to London during the military regime, and businessman Hernan Felipe Errazuriz.

In London, many of the Pinochet support party have past or present links with Baroness Thatcher.

They are said to include Nico Rogerson, Robin Birley, Taki Theodoropoulos and Sebastian Santa Cruz.

Files reveal Kissinger's role in coup

HENRY KISSINGER, national security adviser and Secretary of State to successive US presidents, most notably Richard Nixon, will come under attack shortly as the Clinton administration releases secret documents about his part in helping General Augusto Pinochet to power and sustaining him there.

The declassified documents will inevitably lead to questions about the US government's own role in the coup against President Salvador Allende in September 1973 and the bloodbath that followed in which 3,000 were murdered or "disappeared".

"There are thousands of documents in the records of the CIA, the Pentagon, the State Department and elsewhere that would prove Spain's case against General Pinochet," said Peter Kornbluh, an analyst with the National Security Archive, the Washington based freedom of information group.

The decision could reveal the depth of US knowledge and involvement in the coup. There is speculation that it could result in international law suits against former US government officials.

One member of the British embassy staff at the time of Pinochet's coup was David Spedding who served in Chile from 1972 to 1974. Now Sir David, he is head of the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6.

The documents will back up the evidence that Dr Kissinger not only sought the liquidation of Allende, the freely elected left-winger, but also did nothing to stop the systematic use of torture by the Pinochet regime.

The US is also said to have done nothing to prevent the assassination by Pinochet's secret police, the Dina, of Orlando Letelier, Allende's former ambassador to the US, in Washington in September 1976. In June the State Department had learned that the Dina had started an undercover operation in the US capital and that the government of Paraguay had sought US visas for two Dina officers.

George Landau, US ambassador to Paraguay, sought guidance about the two men from Washington, a request which

By HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY AND PAUL LASEMAR



Kissinger: Did nothing to stop torture

was passed to Dr Kissinger's office and also to the CIA.

One already declassified document, written by the Assistant Secretary of State, Jack Kubisch, 10 weeks after the coup, shows that US intelligence knew that Pinochet's military had already executed 320 people, three times the officially admitted number, and carried out extensive human rights abuses. The memo goes on to say that the US government had already sent \$24m of aid to the new regime.

US government and CIA officials who played a part in America's efforts to destabilise Allende's elected government could also come under scrutiny.

In front of Dr Kissinger, President Nixon told the CIA chief, Richard Helms, to do whatever it took to prevent Allende from winning office. "Make the economy scream," he said. He told them to organise a military coup and made \$10m available.

Although the CIA tried, they did not manage to stop Allende in 1970. Helms was later successfully prosecuted for perjury for lying to Congress about the coup attempts. He is now retired.

CIA operations to destabilise Allende continued. Between 1970 and 1973 the US spent nearly \$8m in covert operations. Nixon was motivated by his friends in big business, especially the ITT conglomerate which wanted Allende out.

DAVID AARONOVITCH

'So, the Hun is at the gate again. This time he wants to harmonise our taxes'

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW

PAGE 3

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Rover boss quits over huge losses

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE GERMAN chairman of the Rover car group resigned yesterday, as the company's owners, BMW, indicated that the Government would have to provide up to £200m in aid to secure the production of a new medium-sized car at the Longbridge plant in Birmingham.

Dr Walter Hasselkus, an Anglophile, aesthete and Latin scholar, said he was resigning after just two years in the job because "someone had to stand up and be counted" over Rover's mounting losses.

The announcement came as BMW confirmed that it will invest £400m to build the new Mini at Longbridge. The investment follows a union agreement on a ground-breaking labour flexibility deal that will save Rover £150m a year, result in 2,500 job losses but safeguard the future of Longbridge.

BMW is funding the new Mini, due to go into production in 2000 at a rate of 150,000 cars a year, out of its own resources. But Bernd Pischetsrieder, chairman of BMW, warned that a further £1bn investment in a replacement for the Rover 200-400 series would depend on taxpayers' support to help it match "unfair competition" from Rover's subsidised rivals.

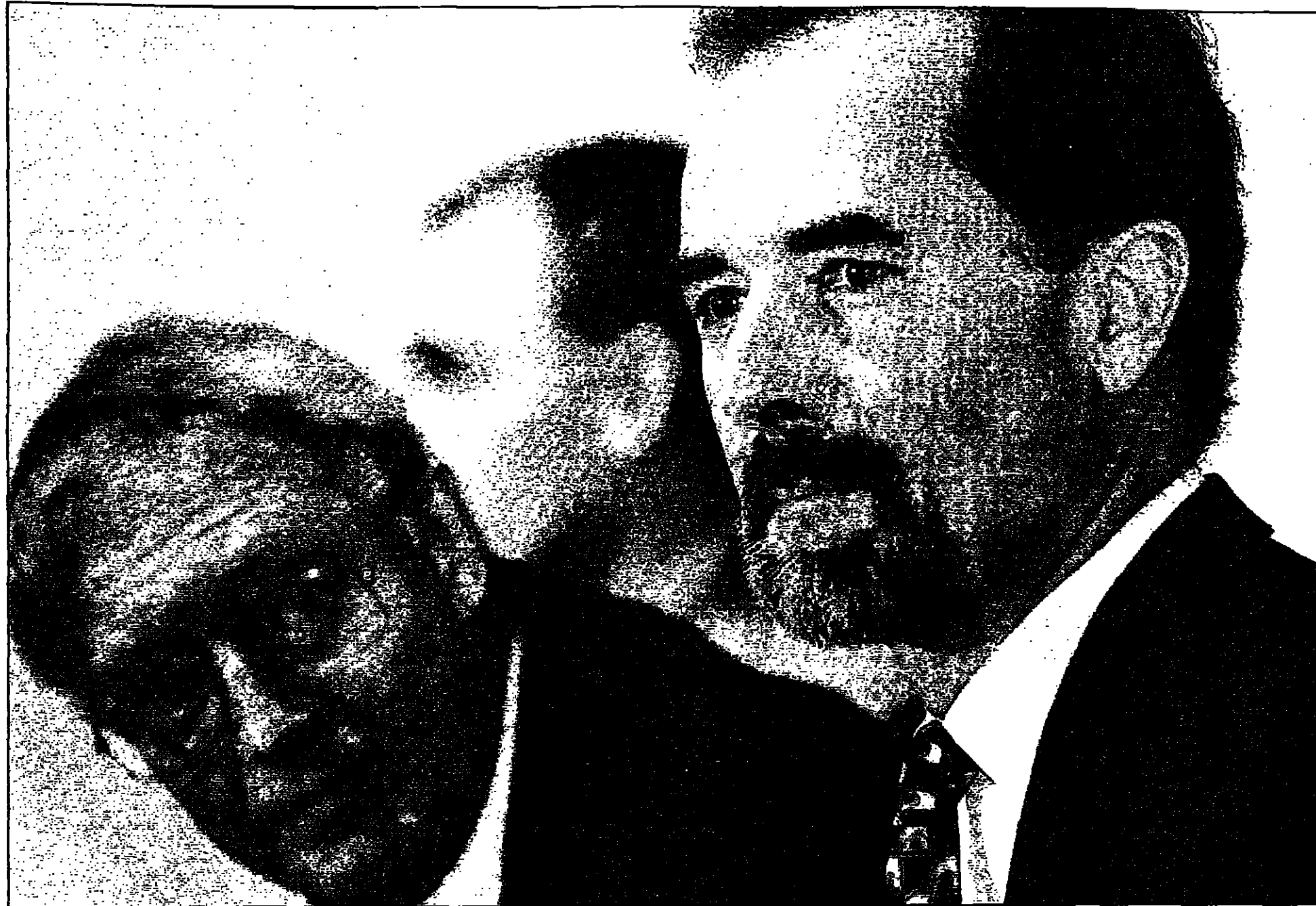
A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said no negotiations had begun with BMW and no aid application received. When one arrived it would be dealt with in the normal way.

Since BMW took over Rover five years ago it has invested £2.5bn but losses this year are expected to reach at least £600m, mainly because of the strength of the pound and Rover's inferior productivity.

Mr Pischetsrieder said the new union agreement would not enable Rover to close the 30 per cent productivity gap with BMW's plants in Germany and hinted that it may need to transfer more component purchasing abroad.

Rover is already switching £1bn worth of orders from UK suppliers on to the Continent.

Dr Hasselkus, 58, is taking early retirement and is being



Dr Walter Hasselkus (left) who announced his resignation yesterday, at a press conference with BMW chairman Bernd Pischetsrieder (right)

Kieran Doherty

replaced by Professor Werner Samann, 56, who previously ran BMW's engines and transmission's division and is regarded as more of a hard-nosed cost cutter.

During Dr Hasselkus's reign, Rover introduced the new baby Range Rover, the Freelander and R75 executive car and also took on the sponsorship of the London Symphony Orchestra.

He announced his departure at a press conference tinged with emotion and humour and laced with Latin quotations. Asked whether he had jumped or whether he had been pushed, Dr Hasselkus replied: "I jumped, I don't like to be pushed."

He then added with a chuckle: "Hic Rhodes, hic salta" (Here is Rhodes, here I jump). The quotation is a reference

to the Greek legend about a man who was always boasting he could jump from one island to another until one day he was challenged to perform the feat.

Dr Hasselkus spent four years as the head of BMW's UK sales operation in the early Eighties and came into the Rover job from heading its motorcycle division. He is a keen motorcyclist.

"Having pondered the situation very carefully and discussed it with Bernd, I have come to the conclusion that somebody else, somebody who is a real expert in engineering and technical areas would be better suited to run Rover."

Although the strong pound was Rover's biggest problem, he said he had got it wrong by not anticipating how fiercely competitive the UK car market would be. "When I look around

360 degrees at the end of the day I have to look at myself. I feel very strongly somebody has to stand up and be counted."

Under the new labour agreement, Rover's 37,000 staff will move to a 35 hour week, but overtime will end and pay rises for the next two years will be sharply reduced.

Employees will vary their shift patterns, working longer hours when demand is high and

fewer hours during slack periods of the year. Each employee will have a working time account in which they can "bank" up to 200 hours a year.

Union leaders welcomed the deal. Tony Woodley, national secretary of the Transport and General Workers, said the new agreement had saved 50,000 jobs in the West Midlands.

Business Outlook, page 21

BBC's staff in Scotland silenced

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

THE BBC in Scotland has issued a gagging order to stop its journalists and presenters from speaking out on the issue of a news programme for post-devolution Scotland, after eight wrote to *The Independent* last week rejecting the BBC's plans.

The order reflects the furore that has been generated by the BBC Governor's rejection of proposals for a "Scottish Six". Instead the Governors have suggested a London-edited bulletin of Scottish news to be included in the national *Six O'clock News*. A final decision will be made on December 10.

Those who wrote to *The Independent* last week included the presenters Ruth Wishart and Colin Bell, and BBC Scotland's senior political correspondent, Kenny McIntyre.

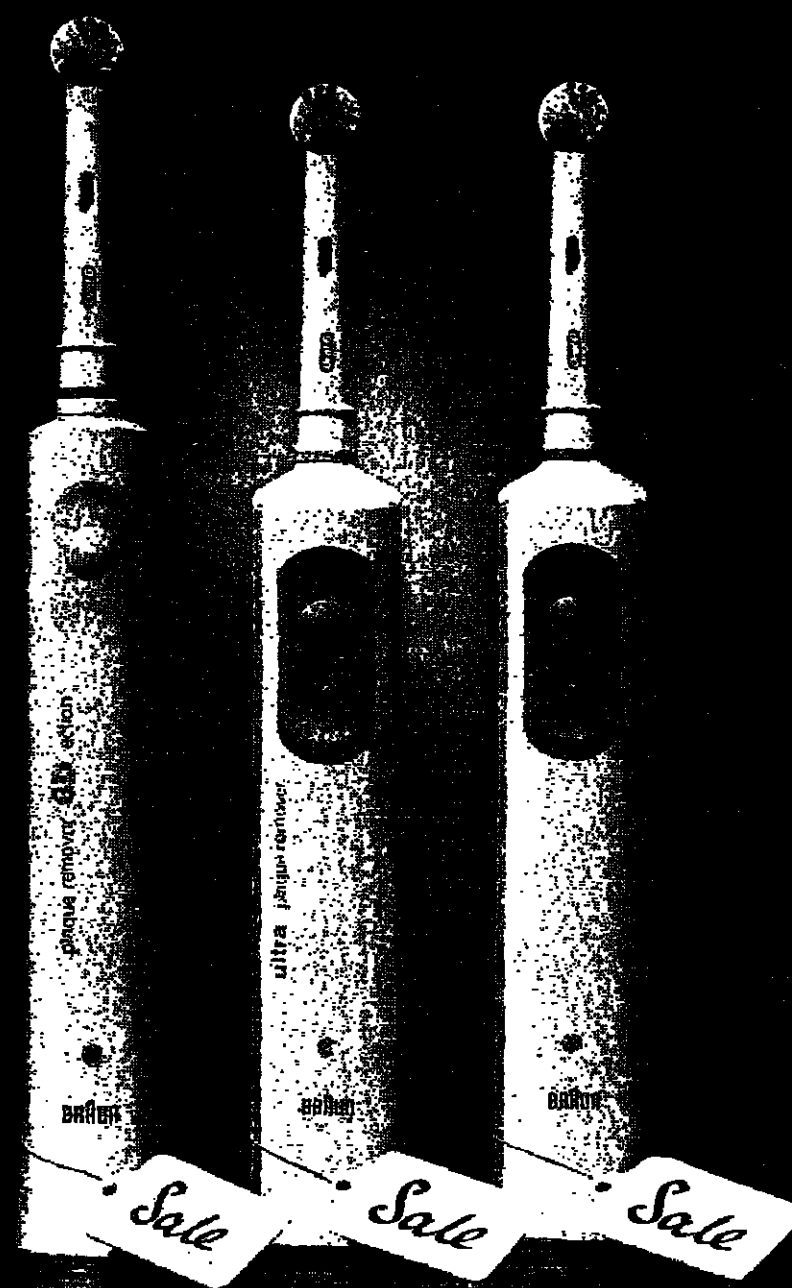
A BBC Scotland spokesman said yesterday that the memo ordering staff to clear any public statements about the issue with their superiors was designed to ensure the impartiality of reporters.

The memo, issued by BBC Scotland's head of news, Ken Cargill, said: "Over the past few days there has been significant clarification of precisely what our preferred option would and would not be and some staff have gone on the record to correct misconceptions. It's important that we ensure that no-one crosses the line into campaigning for a Scottish Six in order that we can sustain our impartiality. Strictly speaking, anyone wishing to comment on BBC matters should seek advice from their departmental head. Please ask for that advice should you require it."

One BBC Scotland insider said yesterday: "The issue of impartiality can only affect whoever is covering media stories, yet the BBC is using the impartiality excuse to gag the rest of us - the ones who are most strongly arguing for it."

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Other brands on current offer: The selected models and the period of the offer may vary at participating retailers. Registered trademarks: Braun, Oral-B.

Police accused in race case

A CHIEF Constable and two fellow senior officers are to give evidence in the High Court over their role in an alleged racist beating of a 12-year-old boy.

Stephen Pilkington, the chief constable of Avon and Somerset Police, has been called, together with two superintendents, in connection with an incident in Lewisham 11 years ago. Police officers, it is claimed, mouthed racist taunts and assaulted Jermaine Jauvel, now 23.

Mr Jauvel is suing the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, for damages arising out of his arrest and subsequent prosecution for assaulting a police officer in March 1987.

Rajiv Menon, representing Mr Jauvel, of London, told the jury: "This is a case about lost innocence and how a child can experience something which no child should have to experience. This is a case about the reality of being black in an English city."

Mr Menon said that before

BY GARY FINN

his arrest Jauvel had never been in trouble and wanted to become a police officer himself.

He had been arrested "for no reason whatsoever", and the incident left him frightened and shocked. He was held for three hours at Lewisham police station and then charged with assaulting a police officer.

Mr Jauvel had never received an apology, said Mr Menon, despite being acquitted of the assault charge by a magistrate.

At the time of the incident Mr Jauvel had been trying to catch a bus home from the Riverdale Centre in Lewisham, where there was a strong police presence.

It is alleged that police, when asking young people to disperse, took Mr Jauvel out of view, kicked and punched him and called him a "black shit".

"Racism is no longer denied by the Metropolitan Police. It is now accepted by the commissioner that there are racist officers," Mr Menon said.



Jermaine Jauvel arriving at the High Court yesterday

Jack Hill

Council tax rises 'twice inflation'

COUNCIL TAX bills are set to rise by nearly double the rate of inflation next year, with even bigger increases likely in the South and London, the Government revealed yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, announced that bills would go up on average by 4.5 per cent if councils kept within Whitehall spending guidelines. The underlying inflation rates stands at 2.5 per cent. Mr Prescott warned that any town hall which exceeded his figure would be subject to tough new penalties and would lose millions of pounds in subsidy.

Council tax for an average Band D home in England will be at least £781, a rise of £33 on £748 today.

But the Liberal Democrats and the Tories claimed that bills would be much higher because the Government had removed budget capping and town halls faced new pressures.

They claimed that councils in London and the South-east had again been hit by changes in grant funding while "crony councils" in the North would receive more help.

Announcing the 1999/2000 local government settlement in the House of Commons, Mr Prescott said that the funding package was the most generous council tax deal ever. Councils across England will be allowed to spend an extra £2.6bn next year, a real terms increase of 2.3 per cent. Over the next three years, Standard Spending Assessments, the amount Whitehall judges councils need to spend, will rise by 7 per cent, he said.

To ensure that councils aren't tempted into profligacy, Mr Prescott revealed a new power to withhold council tax benefit subsidy from any council that put up its bills by more than a 4.5 per cent guideline.

Council leaders claimed that the new sanction which Mr Prescott described as "Prescott's sophisticated capping" would hit poor areas hardest because they had a larger number of residents claiming the benefit and town halls depended on the subsidy.

Under the new settlement,

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

authorities such as Brent, Brighton and Windsor will be allowed spending rises of inflation or less, whereas the biggest gainers such as Rotherham and Gateshead would get more than 7 per cent. A special grant will be paid to cushion those councils that had received less funding than others. Mr Prescott insisted.

"We are asking the council taxpayer to contribute a fair share to the cost of providing local services, no more, no less," he added.

"I make this guarantee for next year. No local authority, north or south, will receive less government grant support next year than they did this year."

"It follows that there is no case for steep council tax increases. If we are faced with such increases, we shall not hesitate to act. We have to protect the country's interests as a whole."

Paul Burstow, the local government spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, said that there was a £1.6bn gap between what councils needed to maintain services and what the Government was promising.

Council tax rises could average 8 per cent across England, he said. "This is yet another smoke and mirrors settlement. Once again council taxpayers will be forced to pay more for less. They are robbing from the poor to give to the poorest."

Gillian Shepherd, the Conservative spokeswoman on the Environment, said that the Government averages hid a range of potentially large tax hikes. "Last year ministers promised rises of no more than 7 per cent and in fact in some areas rises were up to 15 per cent. It is very pointless that they should be making these kinds of promises this year," she said. "You have today promised jam tomorrow. Ordinary families know that the bills will arrive next year."

Eric Illsley, MP for Barnsley Central, warned that his council would have to increase its tax by a large amount.

YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL

Property bands	England		
	Current Tax	Prediction for 1999/2000 (+4.5pc)	Rise
A (Below £40,000)	£501	£523	+£22
B (£42,000-£55,000)	£583	£609	+£26
C (£58,000-£68,000)	£666	£696	+£30
D (£68,000-£104,000)	£748	£781	+£33
E (£104,000-£120,000)	£813	£854	+£41
F (£120,000-£160,000)	£1077	£1125	+£48
G (£160,000-£320,000)	£1249	£1305	+£56
H (Above £320,000)	£1496	£1563	+£67

Table assumes councils spend up to Standard Spending Assessment (SSA). Most will spend above.

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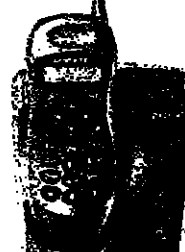
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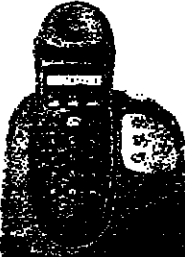
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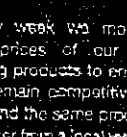
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Jail stores on supermarket shopping list

SUPERMARKETS may be offered the chance to run stores in prisons in an effort to give inmates better service and choice.

The Prison Service is set to offer contracts for 103 prison shops where inmates are allowed to buy tobacco, toiletries and some luxury items. Private keep-fit instructors could also be invited to run physical education and sports classes in more than 30 prison gyms.

But news of the privatisation plan comes as the Prison Service has been forced to consider ending its first experiment of allowing a private firm to run a business within a jail.

The American-owned company Wackenhut (UK) has run the industrial unit at Coldingley prison, in Surrey, for the past year. Inmates are paid to make signposts and provide laundry and engineering services.

The scheme ran into controversy when it was revealed the firm was given a £100,000 loan to buy raw materials and was allowed free gas and electricity worth around £40,000. Prison Service critics said jail bosses were desperate for the scheme to succeed so similar projects to be set up at other jails.

The Wackenhut project is de-

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

signed to improve the profitability of prison industries by bringing in private-business efficiency. But sources at the prison have revealed that the firm has found it difficult to win contracts and is understood to be making losses of £40,000 a month. It has asked to renegotiate its contract, which began in November last year, but Prison Service officials are reluctant to give the company another £500,000 a year.

Nevertheless, the Prison Service is looking at pressing ahead with privatisation plans in other areas.

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, criticised the development. "Just as they are running into trouble with the privatised prison industry they are trying to privatise the gyms and the prison shops, which have always been non-profit-making ventures."

The prison shops - known as "canteens" - could generate a turnover in excess of £20m a year. Typically, prisoners who do duties such as cleaning earn around £10-a-week which they

can spend in the canteen. Some jails have experimented with "enhanced wages" of between £90 and £134 a week for full-time jobs making food or working on the prison farm.

However, the revenue generated by the shops is unlikely to be large enough to tempt Britain's supermarket giants.

A Prison Service spokesman said privatisation of the canteens and gymnasiums was under consideration but no final decision had been taken.

He confirmed that Wackenhut (UK) and senior officials were re-negotiating the future of the business but said details were the subject of commercial confidentiality.



Chelsea pensioners working up an appetite at the traditional 'Ceremony of the Christmas Cheeses' yesterday. Top of the cheese board was the great cheddar, weighing 56lb (25kg). The event dates back to the opening of the Royal Hospital in 1692. *Brian Harris*

Ban on offal went beyond official advice

THE FORMER Tory Agriculture minister John MacGregor yesterday told the inquiry investigating the BSE crisis that he went beyond the scope of scientific advice to ban certain types of beef offal from human consumption.

Mr MacGregor and his deputy, Sir Donald Thompson, both decided to ignore the advice of officials and announced the offal ban in June 1989. They took the decision despite concern that it would cause a media outcry.

The inquiry into "mad cow disease", sitting in London, heard from Mr MacGregor that he originally took a cautious approach over BSE after taking up his role in 1987. He wanted scientific evidence before making decisions to protect the Government from any threat of legal action.

As a result, in April 1988 he set up a working party of experts, under Sir Richard Southwood of Oxford University, to report to him on the issue. The party's final report, in February 1989, included a recommendation that those offals should not be included in baby food. Mr MacGregor said he grew increasingly concerned about this recommendation and decided to take a "belt-and-braces approach" by banning offals, such as the spinal cord, brains, spleen and tonsils, from all human foods. He called a meeting of officials from his own department and the Department of Health in 1989 to tell them of this.

"It was controversial," Mr MacGregor told the inquiry. "One reason my officials were concerned was because it put the issue up more strongly and

BY JACKIE BROWN



John MacGregor: Took decision to ban offal

could result in a flurry of concern, which we managed to avoid. It was not popular with some of the industry. It was a very clear example of where the ministry was acting in the best interests of food safety and not just taking the producers' line."

He met Sir Richard the following day to discuss the fact that there was not scientific evidence to support such a ban.

The two finally agreed on the move and decided that it would be presented as being the most effective way of dealing with the baby-food issue because it would ensure that no such material got into the food chain.

Sir Donald, who was in charge of food safety at the time, said they had expected an outcry. "We expected to get the same press as the ban on beef-on-the-bone got recently," he said. "At the end of the day, it was an ultra-safe measure."

IN BRIEF

IRA rebels jailed for failed robbery

FIVE "REAL IRA" dissident republicans were jailed yesterday by the Special Criminal Court in Dublin after pleading guilty to the attempted robbery of a security van in County Wicklow in May. A sixth man, Ronan Mac Loughlain, 28, was killed at the scene during a gun battle with Irish police. The van was carrying £300,000 in cash.

Florists accused of grave offence

A MARRIED couple stole floral tributes and wreaths from a cemetery to use in their florist's shop, a court heard yesterday. Mary Scott, 35, and her husband David, 60, were accused of taking wreaths and flowers from a cemetery in North Shields. The couple pleaded not guilty at Newcastle Crown Court to five charges of theft.

Inquest into pub deaths begins

AN INQUEST opened yesterday into the deaths of two women who are believed to have been overcome by fumes in a pub. Helen Marks, 31, from Leeds, and Kay Stenning, 30, of Richmond, Surrey, were found in a guest room at The Crown Inn, Wentnor, Shropshire, on Sunday. The hearing, in Ludlow, was adjourned until March 22.

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er 'I can't see anyone who would be a better mayor'

IS TREVOR PHILLIPS the man Tony Blair would like to be London's first elected mayor? The man himself laughs and says he would be interested to know. So would a lot of other people, since this week he came as close to throwing his hat into the ring as it is possible to do without quitting his job and campaigning full time for it.

"I want to be mayor of London," he said. "I think it would be the best job in the world. At the moment I can't see anybody who could do it better than me. But one lives in hope."

Mr Phillips, 45, has been in favour of an elected mayor for the decade and more he has been reporting on London's problems. A former president of the National Union of Students, he became head of current affairs at London Weekend Television from 1988 to 1994 before leaving to start an independent production business. He has a lot of ideas about the capital's politics and transport.

But he has one problem in trying to win selection as the Labour Party candidate: his two daughters, 11, and 14, attend North London Collegiate, a private school. Yet on this issue, Mr Phillips, instead of muttering an embarrassed plea to change the subject, could hardly be more robust.

When the idea came up, his Indian wife, raised in France where everyone attends the neighbourhood school, was horrified. It was not, he says, a decision "lightly taken" - but the choice was clear.

The designated secondary school in Haringey is White Hart Lane Comprehensive, where he and his sister had been pupils and where the number of children with five GCSE passes in this week's league tables was just 14 per cent. "Just one in seven, so six out of seven did not get to GCSE level."

"And in the year my older daughter would have gone there, 1995, the proportion of children getting five GCSE passes was 4 per cent."

He was being invited to tell his children he was sending them to a place "where I know you are going to fail".

"This wasn't somewhere where working class children might suffer but middle class ones would do okay. Something was so drastically wrong you were effectively saying to your children I don't care if you fail to fulfil your potential."

There seemed to be two other options. One was to do as his own parents had done, with his mother working in a sweatshop and his father a night-shift

BY DONALD MACINTYRE

postal worker on £24-per-week, and send his children to Guyana to be educated at Queen's College, Georgetown.

The second, given that he would "not dream of doing anything else than keep my children with me", was to cast around for the best available option in London, which meant, since he was able to afford it, a fee-paying school.

"People will say why didn't you find a nice grant-maintained school, move across the borough borders or whatever. I have no particular quarrel with people who do that. But once you say that you can't put your children in your local neighbourhood school, then whatever else you do is irrelevant."

"The thing that upsets me about this is that people raise it about me as if I have committed a crime... The issue is not whether it makes me into some kind of bloated photocat but why most London parents are confronted with the situation where they are asked to see their children fail and smile about it."

Nor is he without potential allies, especially as children from black families are more likely to fail in such schools. His old friend and near neighbour Bernie Grant, also educated in Guyana, astonished MPs by supporting Harriet Harman in her crisis over sending her son to a grammar school.

"This goes beyond the old left-right divide. It's really an argument between people who want to confront a real problem and people who want to pretend it doesn't exist and stick to the old slogans."

"I haven't been caught on Clapham Common. No one is questioning my share dealings. I haven't been caught with an actress on a futon. Yet somehow this thing - that I want to do the best for my children, makes me somehow unsuitable for public life. It's just outrageous."

The new mayor will not be directly responsible for state education. But Mr Phillips has thought a lot about it and is confident that he would be able to influence policy.

He strongly approves of measures by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, to give head teachers better incentives and improve the fabric of London schools, but does not shrink from saying that you need to borrow some of the private sector's management skills.

On transport, Mr Phillips has big ideas for the use of congestion-charging powers to keep cars out of London and even introduce bans.

Above all, he wants to redraw the map of London's Underground and bus network to provide for south of the river - reducing commercial and residential property prices by spreading activity currently concentrated on the north bank of the Thames.

But all this is for another day. He knows that Ken Livingstone, whatever the efforts to exclude him, remains attractive to Labour activists on the left and some in the trendy non-political middle class who would like to see London's mayor provide a check on the Prime Minister. He dismisses

any notion he is some "proxy for Tony Blair".

"Ken can compete on what he believes," he says. "What I would say, as one of Ken's friends and admirers, is that you shouldn't look back. You shouldn't go back. I don't think it would be good for him and I don't think it would be good for London."

Whether Mr Phillips can pull it off remains to be seen. It may depend in part on whether he can break one of the few remaining taboos in late 20th-century Labour Party culture.



Trevor Phillips says Labour must tackle the issue of why parents must choose between children's failure or private education. Kalpesh Lathigra

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MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH

PARTS OF the Inland Revenue could be thrown into chaos unless officials speed up plans to deal with the "Millennium bug", the Government admitted yesterday.

Margaret Beckett, Leader of the House of Commons, conceded that work to rectify computer systems at the tax-raising department was running far too late. A PC network at the Revenue which enables officials to talk to each other about taxpayers' affairs was giving rise to particular concern, officials said.

Much to the delight of reluctant taxpayers, the deficiency could mean considerable delays in processing tax returns.

Other public-sector or-

ganisations causing concern are the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Northern Ireland Office and the Medicines Control Agency, which monitors the introduction of new drugs.

In an unusual display of candour, the Government admitted that the agencies had either set unacceptably late deadlines for proofing systems against the bug or had allowed completion dates to slip.

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Mark Runnacles



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Tobacco study: Female smokers are twice as likely as men to develop inoperable form of the disease

Women risk most deadly lung cancer

WOMEN SMOKERS are more likely than men to develop the most serious form of lung cancer, possibly because of the way they smoke cigarettes, according to new research.

The study by the British Thoracic Society (BTS) - the largest British investigation into lung cancer - found that nearly twice as many women as men under the age of 65 are diagnosed with small cell lung cancer, the most dangerous form of the disease.

Seven out of ten of these cases could not be helped by surgery and more than half will be dead within six months of their diagnosis.

The findings reinforced calls by the BTS, the UK's official body of respiratory specialists, for the Government to target teenage girls in its imminent White Paper on tobacco.

The study found that men were more likely to have non-small cell lung cancer, which is less damaging to the lung, and nearly half could be considered operable.

Dr Mike Pearson, chairman of the BTS Public Education Committee, said there were several reasons why women

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

might be more susceptible to small cell lung cancer.

"Our research suggests women have less resistance to the most dangerous kinds of lung cancer," he said. "This may be due to changing patterns of smoking behaviour - many women took up the habit a decade after men, who smoked heavily during the Second World War."

"Women may also smoke in a different way to men, for example taking shorter, sharper inhalations, which could have an effect on the kind and severity of cancer that they develop."

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) claimed that the higher levels of small cell lung cancer among female smokers could be explained by their tendency to take "sharper inhalations" because they smoke "lighter" cigarettes.

"There are probably several factors at work here, but a major suspect is the greater use of 'light' cigarettes by women," said Clive Bates, director of ASH. "People adjust their smoking to get a satisfying

dose of nicotine, and 'low-tar' smokers draw smoke more deeply into the lungs to get the nicotine they need."

Dr Pearson said: "Smoking among teenage girls is on the increase. It is vitally important that young women know the greater risks they are running by smoking. We must prevent them becoming the lung cancer victims of the future."

The Health minister, Tessa Jowell, said yesterday that the Government wanted to tackle the increasing rate of smoking among teenage girls. "Ten years ago, one in five 15-year-old girls smoked. That figure is now one in three," she said. "Smoking is the single greatest cause of preventable death and there is no safe level at which people can smoke."

Dr Pearson urged the Government to act more quickly to ban tobacco advertising and sponsorship amid signs it could take years for the ban to be implemented. "If you stop smoking, you halve your risk in five years. Waiting seven years, in our view, is longer than is necessary," he said. "It's vital young women know the greater risks they're running by smoking."



Smoking has particular drawbacks for women, according to the largest British investigation into lung cancer

Lasers replace burns surgery

BY GLENDA COOPER

NEW LASER technology can "map" the depth of burn wounds, saving thousands of children from unnecessary surgery and scarring, the British Association of Plastic Surgeons (Baps) heard yesterday.

The technique employs a laser-scanning machine to produce a surgical map of the burn wound, providing rapid and accurate measurements of the wound depth by measuring blood flow. Both superficial and deep burns are easy for surgeons to distinguish, but intermediate "deep dermal" burns are not. Accurate assessment can ensure patients are either operated on quickly to reduce scarring, or are not operated on when it is unnecessary.

"The problem is estimating the middle group," said Anthony Roberts, consultant plastic surgeon at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, speaking at the Baps winter meeting. "Even after 25 years of experience I know I am going to get some wrong - probably about 25 per cent."

The new machine shows up the level of blood flow 1mm to 1.5mm below the surface. Blood flow is high in areas of superficial burns and low in areas of major burns. "We can screen the wound very quickly and map it exactly," said Paul Banwell, Duke of Kent Research Fellow at Stoke Mandeville.

In a pilot group of 40, the doctors estimate that six children have so far been saved from unnecessary surgery. Every year, around 12,000 people are burned severely enough to warrant hospital treatment. Half of these are children but 90 per cent of them receive "deep dermal" burns, compared with about 30 per cent of adult burns.

There are just two machines, which cost £30,000, in the country at the moment - one at Stoke Mandeville and one at Newcastle, but the surgeons said that they would like to see one in every specialist burns unit in the country. "This early work shows that it is a very valuable tool and we should like to see it used throughout the world," said Mr Roberts.

Total ban on tobacco advertising by 2000

THE ADVERTISING ban on cigarettes is to be brought forward to the millennium as part of a comprehensive package of measures to curb smoking in Britain.

The decision to bring forward the ban by at least a year will be announced next week in a government White Paper on smoking. Under an European Union directive, advertising of tobacco products on billboards could have continued until 2001.

The Government is also expected to announce a cam-

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

paign to help smokers give up. Family doctors will be given powers to give nicotine gum and nicotine patches to those on low incomes at special clinics.

Nicotine gum and patches will not be put on general prescription, because of ministers' fears over costs. But it is likely that there will be limited moves to enable those on low incomes - who are among the most tenacious

smokers - to get supplies at less than the £6 a pack charged over the counter by chemists.

There will be no ban on smoking in pubs, bars or restaurants, but more no-smoking areas will be encouraged. The Health and Safety at Work Act will be used to enforce no-smoking bans in the workplace, particularly in small offices, to protect workers from health risks.

The White Paper will mark a dramatic shift in attitude within the National Health Service towards treatment of smoking as an illness, similar to that of alcohol or drug addiction. Officials said an estimated seven out of ten smokers wanted to give up, if they could get help.

The Medicines Control Agency has also approved the lifting of the ban on selling nicotine gum in corner shops. Now, it can only be sold in pharmacies, but it is likely to be made more widely available in shops and possibly pubs.

The Public Health minister, Tessa Jowell, who refused to disclose details of the White Paper when she was challenged on BBC radio yesterday, is keen to avoid being accused of running a "nanny state" and has steered clear of general bans on smoking in public places.

Most of the action will be voluntary, and curbs on tobacco advertising will be enforced under EU directives. None of the measures will require primary legislation. The Government will seek to curb advertising in

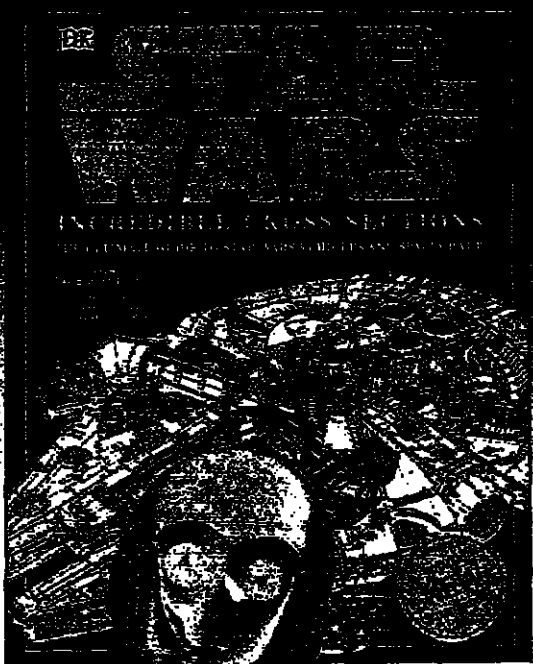
shops to meet its manifesto commitment to impose a ban without exemptions.

There will also be action to limit the so-called "indirect brand stretching" of tobacco products with marketing of fashion goods under the same name, such as Marlboro and Camel. But there will be no change in the EU directive plans to ban tobacco sponsorship of sports by 2005 and world events, such as Formula One car racing by 2006.

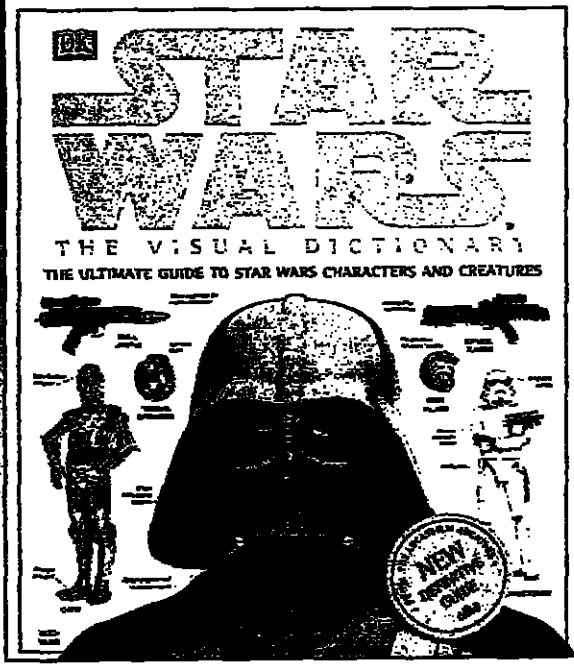
Clive Bates, of the anti-smoking charity Ash, said: "If these reports are true, it will be the first serious broad-based attempt to reverse the toll of unnecessary illness and death since the scientists first warned of the dangers in the Fifties."

The Government will claim the moves put Britain at the leading edge of international efforts to reduce tobacco use. It will form part of a public health strategy to be outlined in a second White Paper next autumn.

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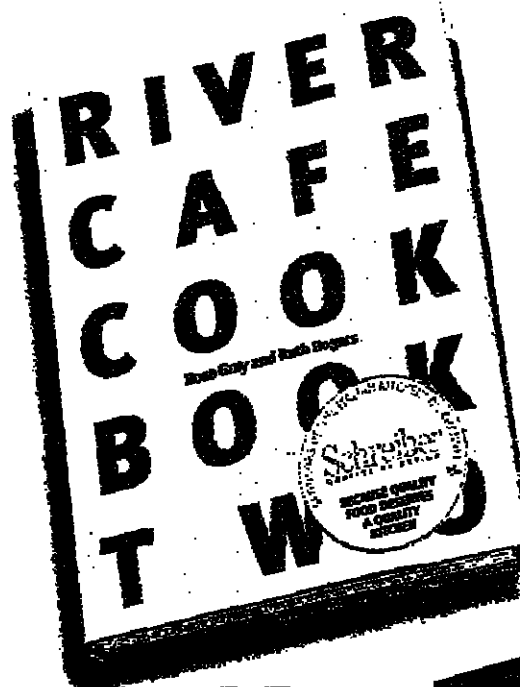
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When dinosaurs trampled the highways

FOSSIL HUNTERS have discovered vast swaths of rock peppered with dinosaur footprints which are providing them with rare insights into the creatures' behaviour.

Tracks over 100 million years old have been uncovered in at least 600 locations around the world, providing details of how the animals moved, hunted and organised themselves into social groups.

Ichthyology - the study of ancient tracks - has generated a renaissance in dinosaur research, according to Martin Lockley, a palaeontologist from the University of Colorado at Denver. Writing in *Nature*, Dr Lockley says that an explosion in the discovery of fossil footprints is proving to be one of the most valuable sources of information about dinosaurs.

"As recently as 1962, only about 27 dinosaur footprint localities were known worldwide. Now the number is over 300 for the western USA alone."

There are at least three "dinosaur highways" in America where the densities of tracks average about a million

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

per square kilometres over areas ranging from 1,000 to 10,000 square kilometres.

Dinosaur footprints have been known about for centuries although they were not recognised as such. A trackway in Germany is believed to have inspired the dragon slain by Siegfried in the medieval legend of the Nibelungs, a dinosaur footprint in Sussex gave Sir Arthur Conan Doyle the idea for *The Lost World*.

Dr Lockley says that dinosaur highways also show that young dinosaurs were far more common than the fossil skeleton records suggest. In one area of western America, the number of dinosaur tracks found in rocks dating back to Jurassic times is equivalent to the total number of dinosaurs in the world identified from fossilised skeletons, he says.

Measuring the distance between fossil footprints has enabled scientists to study the gait of dinosaurs and estimate their running speeds.



A Bristol University palaeontologist examining dinosaur footprints at Reats Quarry in Dorset

Daily TV warning to drink drivers

TOUGH TELEVISION commercials, showing reconstructions of fatal alcohol-related accidents, were unveiled yesterday, as the Government launched its annual Christmas crackdown on drink-driving.

The advertisements use realistic scenes of the aftermath of an accident, showing blood-stained clothes lying on the road, wrecked cars and the sound of police messages talking of fatalities and drivers smelling of drink. The first of the series of 15 commercials was shown last night on ITV as part of a £2m national campaign, aimed particularly at male drivers aged 17 to 24.

The campaign comes as the Government is considering lowering the legal alcohol limit from 80mg per 100ml of blood to 50mg, a move supported by road-safety groups and by the medical profession.

France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Greece and Finland already have a 50mg limit. Legal levels in Portugal and Sweden are even lower.

A new approach has been taken this year to the traditional campaign over the Christmas period. Instead of using a single advertisement shown on many occasions, the Government has decided to confront viewers with a drink-drive message in a different form each time they see or hear it.

Lord Whitty, the minister for roads who was at yesterday's launch, said: "The intention... is to remind the viewer that every day someone dies as a result of a drink-drive accident."

Previous Christmas campaigns aimed at drink-driving have proved a success. Between 1979 and last year, the number of fatal casualties from accidents involving one driver or rider who was over the legal limit fell from 1,643 to around 540. Even though an increasing number of breath tests has been administered in England and Wales, the proportion proving positive has gradually fallen from 20 per cent in 1989 to 12 per cent last year. Convictions for alcohol-related driving offences are also falling.

John Reid, the Transport minister, said at yesterday's launch: "This campaign, now a feature of our calendar, remains a vital tool in our efforts to reduce the potentially awful consequences of drink-driving during the festive season."

BY CATHY COMERFORD

Christmas always presents a lot of opportunities for social drinking. There is one simple message - the only way to be certain that you will not kill someone is to never mix drinking and driving.

The Association of British Drivers says the government campaign should also warn of the dangers of driving the morning after an evening drinking session.

In an attempt to tackle the problem, police have warned motorists to expect to be breath-tested in the mornings as well as the evenings during the Christmas period.

The vice-chairman of the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

TESTING TIMES

Roadside screening breath tests
England and Wales 1987-97, 000s

Year	Breath tests	Tests failing	Convictions
1987	400	111	115
1988	443	112	119
1989	541	108	114
1990	597	102	113
1991	562	90	104
1992	531	88	95
1993	600	89	91
1994	679	93	90
1995	703	94	93
1996	781	101	96
1997	860	104	n.a.

Ken Williams, said: "I would remind drivers of the dangers of driving the morning after a major drinking bout."

"Police will be looking for offenders 24 hours a day and not just in the evenings."

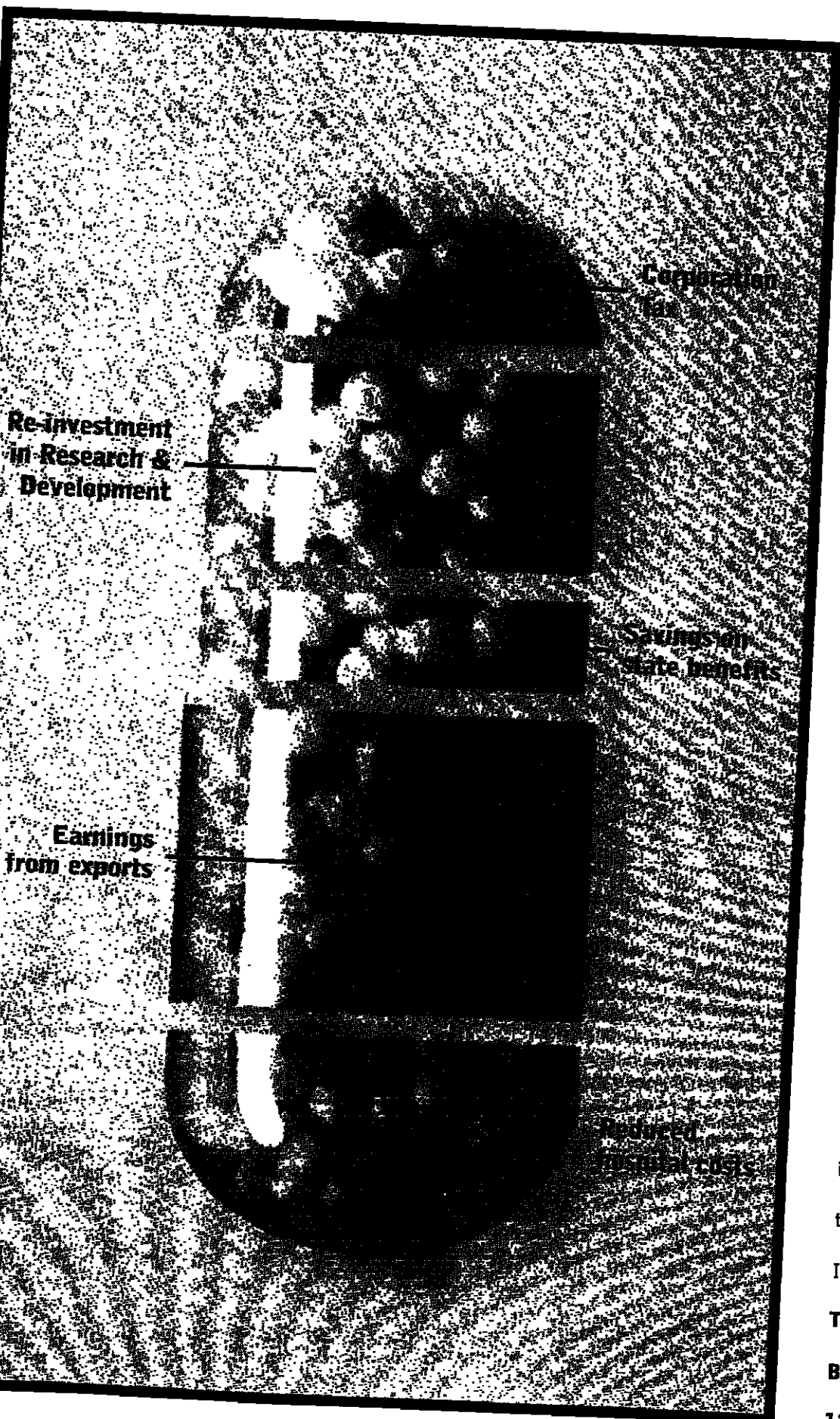
The family of three cyclists who were killed by a drunken driver five days before Christmas last year is backing the launch of this year's drink-drive campaign.

Bryan Harrison, 38, his brother Alan, 33, and their brother-in-law Don Smith, 49, were killed when they were hit by a Ford Mondeo car on the A193, near Seaton Sluice in Northumberland last year.

The driver of the Ford Mondeo, Andrew Armstrong, 36, was later jailed for seven years after admitting three charges of causing death by dangerous driving and one of driving with excess alcohol.

He was also banned from driving for 15 years.

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This year, the National Health Service will spend £6 billion on medicines - about 25 pence per person per day.

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Over the past five years pharmaceutical companies have committed over £2 billion in capital investment, and more is planned.

The benefit of the industry is also felt within the Treasury as pharmaceutical companies in Britain pay hundreds of millions of pounds in Corporation Tax each year.

But perhaps the industry is least known for its investment in education, funding half of all post-graduate training for GPs and supporting universities to the tune of £100 million a year.

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The Association of the
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THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

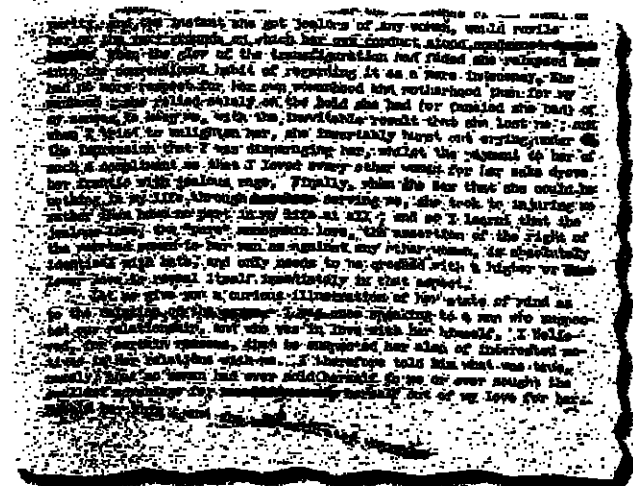
'The Independent' is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.



Article 23

- (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
- (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
- (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
- (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

A pamphlet edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is published by Waterstone's, price £1. Proceeds to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.



Shaw's £18,000 thoughts on sex and cake

A LETTER in which George Bernard Shaw said he valued sex "as highly as a piece of plum cake" was purchased yesterday for £18,000 as a gift for a woman who bakes an excellent plum cake.

BY LOUISE JURY

The buyer, who wished to remain anonymous, saw the sale advertised on the Internet and decided that the letter would make the perfect gift for his girlfriend's cake-baking mother.

The letter was discovered recently in a cupboard 104 years after Shaw wrote to Laura Ormiston Chant, a social reformer and campaigner against prostitution.

The two struck up a correspondence after he criticised her revelation that prostitutes were soliciting at a theatre in Leicester Square, London, which had prompted its closure. In his letter of 17 November 1894 Shaw expressed sympathy for prostitutes, saying that as I am bound to respect that lower depth of prostitution by which I have for so many years earned my own living: to wit, journalism."

He said that he would sup-

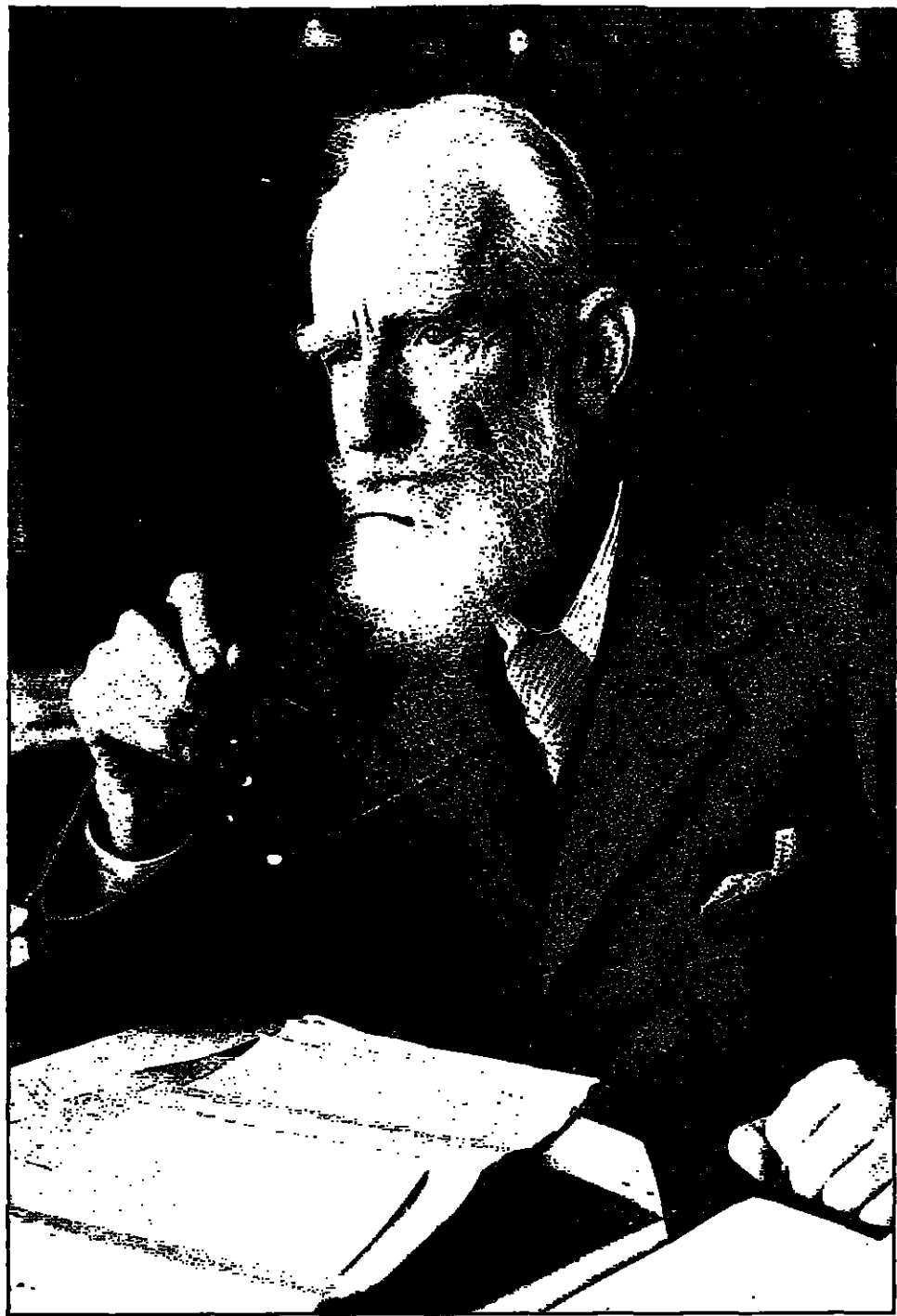
port a prostitutes' trade union and spoke of his high regard for sexual intercourse, condemning Victorian notions of purity and respectability.

"It is because you have idealised a certain line of conduct and branded every departure from it as impurity that the woman in the street must submit to be kicked and cuffed by the policeman," he said.

Revealing that his first affair had turned him into a "dangerous libertine", Shaw said: "I value the physical sensation of sexual intercourse about as highly as I value a piece of plum cake."

The letter was discovered at the family home of a descendant of Mrs Ormiston Chant. She had become a campaigner for social reform that eventually led to the first Children's Act after she realised that as a woman she had no legal rights over her children.

The selling price was originally estimated at £800 to £900 and later increased to £2,000. A spokeswoman for the auctioneers, Bonham's, in London,



Shaw: 'I value sexual intercourse about as highly as I value a piece of plum cake'

said that the "quite unexpected" price of £18,000 was the result of fierce bidding between two potential buyers.

The loser in the bidding war, who also wished to remain anonymous, last month purchased a miniature of Mrs Ormiston Chant and other papers found alongside the letter from Shaw.

'Ice cream' killers must stay in jail

CAMPAIGNERS CALLING for the release of two men convicted of a series of murders in Glasgow warned yesterday that there would be demonstrations and civil disobedience after Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, ruled that the pair must stay in jail.

Joseph Steele and Thomas "TC" Campbell were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for the murder of six members of the Doyle family in 1984 in what became known as the "ice-cream war" for control of the city's drugs trade.

The pair protest their innocence and campaigners for the so-called "Glasgow two" last month stormed the Edinburgh office of the Scottish Home Affairs minister, Henry McLeish.

Yesterday, there were threats of further demonstrations after Mr Dewar refused permission for a fresh appeal. Agnes Lafferty, Campbell's sister, said her brother was "absolutely gutted" by the decision, "but we will continue to fight on".

Earlier this year, an attempt at appeal failed and the two men were sent back to prison after 14 months of freedom dur-

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

ing which Steele had married. But public interest in the case has remained high, fired by the 14-year legal battle and the gangland background to the killings.

Twenty years ago, criminals realised that ice-cream vans could be a perfect front for drug dealing. Andrew Doyle, 18, was a van driver for the Marchetti brothers, in east Glasgow. Pushed out of two areas, the Marchettis tried to hold firm in their home patch of Garthamlock. Mr Doyle was threatened and shot. Then, on 16 April 1984 someone set fire to his tenement home in the night. He and five other members of his family died.

After a trial at the High Court in Glasgow, Campbell and Steele were convicted of the murders and given life sentences. They have refused to apply for parole, believing that would amount to an admission of guilt.

The families had expected the two men home for Christmas but Mr Dewar judged that there were no fresh arguments to justify referring the case to the Court of Appeal.

John Carroll, solicitor for the two men, said the next step was to take the case to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, when it is established next April to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice. He said he was "not surprised, but disappointed", by the decision. He is optimistic the commission will recommend the case goes back to the Court of Appeal.

In a bitter reaction, Jim Steele, Joseph Steele's brother, said campaigners would ensure Mr Dewar's "political demise" and were prepared to resort to civil disobedience: "Donald Dewar has acted in a very cowardly fashion. We are determined to intensify this campaign and direct it towards him."

Co-ordinator of the two men's campaign, Tommy Sheridan of the Scottish Socialist Party, said it was "a very, very sad day for justice in Scotland" and vowed that the high profile demonstrations would continue.

Mr Sheridan led last month's protest when 30 demonstrators occupied Mr McLeish's suite and unfurled banners proclaiming "Innocents imprisoned" from a balcony.

Lawrence family to give TV Christmas message

THE PARENTS of the murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence will deliver this year's alternative Christmas message on Channel 4.

While the Queen speaks on BBC and ITV, Doreen and Neville Lawrence will reflect on a year that saw the conclusion of the public inquiry into the police investigation of their son's death in 1993.

Tim Gardam, director of programmes at Channel 4, said yesterday: "It was one of the major, defining stories of the year. They are people no one

BY RHYS WILLIAMS

would have heard of but for the way they have held themselves through all that has happened. It has given them a kind of democratic stature.

"They will address the case as well as reflecting on the year as a whole. Their dignity and bearing throughout has made them more than just victims."

Past presenters of Channel 4's alternative message have included Quentin Crisp, Brigitte Bardot and, in the guise of

Diana, Princess of Wales, Rory Bremner.

Last year, Margaret Gibney, the Belfast schoolgirl who wrote to Tony Blair about her hopes for peace in Northern Ireland, spoke about the peace process.

Other Channel 4 Christmas highlights include a new 90-minute version of *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, starring Kate Beckinsale; Raymond Briggs's animation *The Bear*; and the Welsh National Opera's production of *Hansel and Gretel*.

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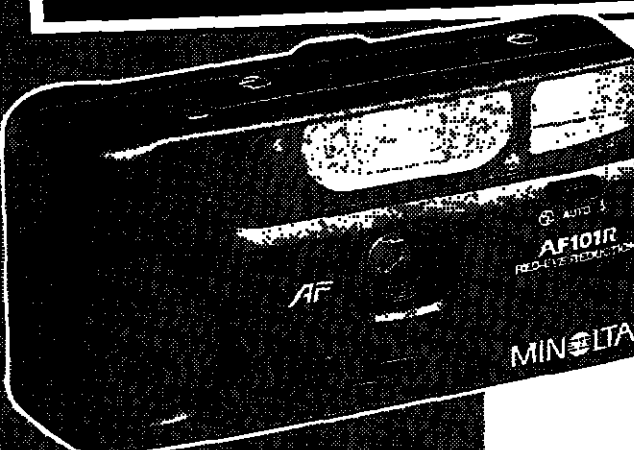
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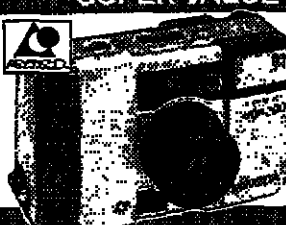
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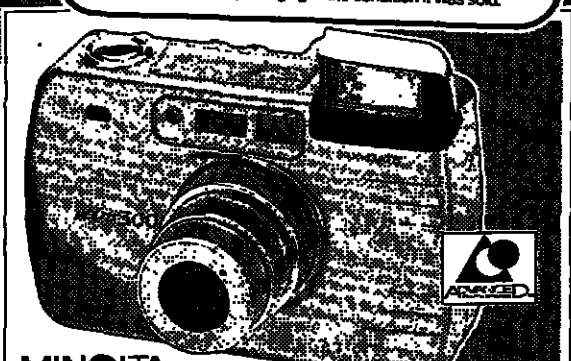
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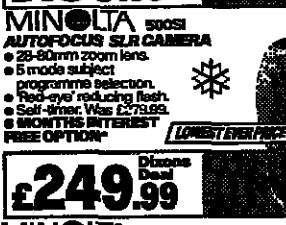
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'This isn't football, it's war' say Turks

POLICE HELICOPTERS and some 22,000 troops and gendarmes greeted the Juventus football players as they arrived at Istanbul's Ali Sami Yen stadium yesterday for their Champions' League match with Galatasaray, Istanbul's top team.

Turkey has been in the grip of violent anti-Italian hysteria since Rome refused to hand over the Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), who is regarded by most Turks as a terrorist responsible for the death of at least 30,000 people.

Italian-made goods have been burnt in the streets and there has been an unofficial boycott of trade with Italy. "This isn't football, it's war," said Serdar Gul, an Istanbul taxi-driver. It was a sentiment echoed all over the city.

The match was postponed for a week because of Juventus's fears for their safety in the fevered atmosphere.

The Ali Sami Yen stadium has a reputation in normal times as an intimidating cauldron where visiting teams are greeted with banners announcing "Welcome to Hell". Galatasaray fans at Istanbul airport yesterday threw white lilies before the Juventus bus - a hospitable gesture - but the

BY JUSTIN HUGGLER
in Istanbul
AND FRANCES KENNEDY
in Rome

Italian players looked out apprehensively.

Juventus risked the wrath of Uefa by refusing to travel to Istanbul for the requisite overnight stay, and arrived only hours before the match.

They boarded their charter flight at Turin airport with long faces, despite a pep-talk from the coach, Marcello Lippi, urging them to put their worries behind them and concentrate on the game.

"One thing is for certain," Lippi said. "We are not going to end up like the turkey on Thanksgiving Day. I don't know whether we will be able to forget all that is going on around us but we will try to do the right thing."

The Italian Football Federation president, Luciano Nizola, said that he was "very impressed" with the security precautions Turkey had taken.

"We weren't expecting such a warm reception," he said from the team's hotel on the Bosphorus. The managers of the Turin club have nevertheless supported the players' wish to remain in Turkey for as short a time as possible, just 13 hours, even though this means

a hefty fine. The Juventus chairman, Vittorio Chiusano, said he would be pleased if the match helped ease the tension between Rome and Ankara. "If in the past there had been ping-pong diplomacy, now there will be football diplomacy," he said optimistically.

Galatasaray said it was expecting some Italian fans to attend the game. "We've taken every precaution, but there won't be a problem. Football isn't about politics," a spokesman said. At least one Turkish fan agreed. "There's no chance of any problems; the Turkish people are brothers of sport."

"And anyway, it's impossible with this level of security," Aydin Burdek said.

The match coincided with the appointment of Bulent Ecevit as Turkey's new prime minister after his predecessor fell in a corruption scandal.

Mr Ecevit is likely to maintain Turkey's tough stance over Mr Ocalan.

As the Juventus squad arrived in Turkey the Italian parliament was about to begin a debate on the Ocalan case. Italy's Foreign Minister, Lamberto Dini, has confirmed that he will meet his Turkish counterpart, Ismail Cem, next Tuesday during a Nato ministerial session in Brussels.



Turkish police at Istanbul's Ali Sami Yen stadium before the Champions' League match between Juventus and Galatasaray

Reuters

'The Fugitive' case re-opened Serb arrested for war crimes

THE HIGHEST court in the state of Ohio is allowing Sam Reese Sheppard to sue for the wrongful imprisonment of his father, Dr Sam Sheppard, in the latest instalment of the celebrated Fifties murder case. If he wins, the heir to the man whose story partly inspired the television series *The Fugitive*, could win up to \$2m.

Sam Sheppard *senior* was imprisoned in 1954 for the murder of his wife, but always protested his innocence. The US Supreme Court overturned the guilty verdict 10 years later, in a landmark decision that cited

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

the unfair effect of pretrial publicity. Sheppard was formally acquitted in 1966, with a groundbreaking defense that helped make Sheppard's lawyer, F. Lee Bailey, famous. Sheppard died of liver disease in 1970, but his son has continued the battle to clear his name and now believes that the latest DNA techniques provide the proof. "We won our day in court," said Terry Gilbert, the younger Sheppard's attorney. "It's all we've been looking for

the last three years. Justice for the Sheppard family may be in sight."

For the current lawsuit to succeed, Dr Sheppard would have to be found innocent, a more definite verdict than the 1966 acquittal required. During his lifetime, he insisted that a "bushy-haired" burglar had beaten his wife to death at their home on Lake Erie and had knocked him unconscious.

The suspect favoured by Sheppard's son is the couple's window-cleaner, Richard Eberling, who was later convicted of another murder. He died in

prison earlier this year, but always said he did not kill Mrs Sheppard.

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the lawsuit should proceed on the slenderest - 4-3 - majority, and state prosecutors may appeal to the US Supreme Court to stop the case going forward. They had argued that too much evidence had been lost since the earlier trials and too many key witnesses had died.

The Assistant Prosecutor of Cuyahoga County, George Sadd, said of the ruling: "We're just terribly disappointed."



Krstic: Seized by Nato

NATO'S PEACE force in the former Yugoslavia arrested a Bosnian Serb general yesterday in another sign that there will be no relaxation in the campaign to seize and try suspected war criminals.

General Radislav Krstic was seized in northern Bosnia and will soon be sent to the International War Crimes Tribunal in the Netherlands, Nato said. He is the highest-ranking military figure to be brought before the court since it was set up by the UN Security Council in 1993.

The arrest is likely to anger

BY MARCUS TANNER

many Bosnian Serbs because Nato forces acted on a "sealed indictment" - a secret list of war-crime suspects drawn up by the tribunal in The Hague.

"Persons indicted for war crimes who are still at large should realise that they, too, will be brought to justice," Nato's Secretary General, Javier Solana, said in Brussels.

Louise Arbour, the tribunal's chief prosecutor, described Gen Krstic as "a very significant military leader" and said the indictment related to his key role

in the assault on Srebrenica. The mainly Muslim town in eastern Bosnia was overrun by the Bosnian Serb army, led by Ratko Mladic, in July 1995. Most of the adult male population was slaughtered and the bodies dumped in mass graves.

The tribunal has so far completed four cases. On Monday the trial began of Goran Jelisic, known as "Serbian Adolf" for his alleged atrocities against Muslims and Croats in Brcko, in northern Bosnia.

Another 25 detainees are in custody in the tribunal's cells in Scheveningen near The Hague.

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French in court for bird hunting

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

THE EUROPEAN Commission decided yesterday to take France to the European Court for failing to protect migratory birds. It is prosecuting France on two counts of breaching a 1979 directive imposing Europe-wide restrictions on the hunting of birds which migrate across national boundaries.

It follows a decision by the French parliament to allow hunters to shoot ducks, geese, woodcock and snipe for an extra six weeks in summer and an extra month in spring. The law, not yet implemented, would allow French hunters to continue to shoot the protected birds during their autumn and spring migrations.

Paris was already in trouble for failing to implement the directive properly. It was condemned by the European Court of Justice in 1994.

On the second count, Paris is accused of failing to implement laws banning the shooting of four kinds of seabird regarded as endangered. EU countries can seek an exemption if the birds - three kinds of gull and one type of cormorant - can be proved to be a nuisance but France did not go through these procedures. If the French government is found guilty, it faces fines of up to £10,000 a day on each charge.



The European Court has moved to prosecute French hunters who shoot migratory birds

Kofi Annan in Lockerbie trial mission

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

KOFI ANNAN, the UN Secretary-General, is expected to meet Muammar Gaddafi this weekend, amid mounting speculation that the Libyan leader is on the verge of handing over two suspects, wanted for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

Speaking in Algiers, Mr Annan said he was in contact with the Libyan Government, and "might go" to Libya when he ends a visit to Tunisia.

In fact it is assumed he will go - and, possibly, seal arrangements for Abdel Basset Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah to face trial at a court in The Hague.

With the 10th anniversary of the destruction of PanAm's flight 103 just 18 days away, the Foreign Office is bending over backwards to avoid any impression of a deadline.

Only too aware of Mr Gaddafi's proven capacity for stalling, officials in London merely express encouragement at the "serious engagement" of the Libyans in seeking a resolution of the issue.

Exactly what Mr Annan will do in Tripoli is unclear.

If the end game is at hand, he would be expected to con-

firm that, once the suspects had been surrendered, the UN's sanctions against Libya would be lifted.

But during a phone conversation last week with Mr Annan, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, made it clear that there could be no negotiation.

The ball, Britain insists, is firmly in the Libyan court. The hope is, as one official put it, "that Annan's going there will be a peg for Gaddafi to make an announcement."

But the Libyans' intentions are as mysterious as ever. Years of total deadlock were broken in August when the US and Britain, fearful that UN sanctions aimed at isolating Libya were slowly dying by default, abandoned their long standing insistence that the two men's trial be held in Scotland or America.

In return, Tripoli seemed to agree in principle to hand over the suspects.

Nonetheless, prevarication over the details had continued, before the waters were further muddied last week by reports from Tripoli of the trial

and imprisonment of three senior Libyan security officials, allegedly on the grounds of "dereliction of duty" over the bombing, in which 270 people were killed.

That step was interpreted in some quarters as a sign that the crucial breakthrough was at hand, and that by jailing three key witnesses who would otherwise have been called to testify in The Hague, the Libyans were seeking to make it hard, if not impossible, to convict Megrahi and Fhimah.

Other analysts however maintain that the three - one of them the brother-in-law of Mr Gaddafi himself - are so senior that their belated "imprisonment", if such it is, may preface a definitive refusal to deliver the two men accused by the West of actually planting the suitcase bomb which blew the PanAm Jumbo jet apart.

According to this theory, the Libyan president would argue that the individuals who had plotted the crime had been punished and justice done, so that no grounds any longer existed for a trial of the mere foot soldiers in Britain's worst ever terrorist outrage.

Anti-semitic insult destroys judges' union

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

A FRENCH magistrates' union yesterday passed an instant death sentence on itself following the publication of an anti-semitic slur in the union journal. Following an extraordinary sequence of events, the head of the union called for the dissolution of the 18-year-old organisation as a mark of contrition and shame.

The decision follows an article in the magazine of the Association Professionnelle des Magistrats (APM), criticising Albert Lévy, a public prosecutor who has been suspended for allegedly leaking details of sensitive investigations. The article said: "Lévy went back to the oven so many times that he ended up burning himself." Mr Lévy is Jewish.

Possible legal and disciplinary actions have already been launched against the author of

the article, a senior magistrate called Alain Terrail, 65, who is the chief public prosecutor in the highest French appeal court, the Cour de Cassation.

Mr Terrail - a former president of the APM - denies any anti-semitic intentions. But the current president, Georges Fenech, said a magistrates' union should be above suspicion.

"The APM has signed its own death warrant and has been assassinated by a stroke of the pen," he said yesterday. "The facts are extremely serious. Even if it is unintentional, we have to accept the consequences of it."

The national bureau of the union will meet next week to discuss Mr Fenech's recommendation that the organisation should dissolve itself.

The use of the word "four", or oven, in French carries highly emotive connotations of the Holocaust, partly because the word has been used mockingly by Jean-Marie Le Pen, president of the National Front. Mr Le Pen has been successfully prosecuted for his slighting use of the word in the past.

The furor surrounding the article has reignited the controversy that followed the arrest and prosecution of Mr Lévy, the deputy public prosecutor of Toulon, one of the five towns in France run by the NF.

Mr Lévy is accused of leaking details of investigations of corruption in the town, involving both the NF and centre-right parties.

The decision to take legal action against Mr Lévy was widely interpreted as a political act.

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Netanyahu brokers deal to stay in power

AFTER TORTUOUS negotiations David Levy, the former Israeli foreign minister, is poised to rejoin the government of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, but it is unclear what job he will take in the government as the price of his support.

Mr Levy was expected to seek the job of Infrastructure Minister, but instead said he opted for the Finance Ministry. Mr Netanyahu hopes the return of Mr Levy, who has a small faction in parliament, will strengthen his government and allow him to avoid early elections. Mr Levy said last night: "The Prime Minister knows my choice. I informed him of it. I hope it will be settled this evening."

Critics in Mr Netanyahu's Likud and other coalition parties accuse Mr Levy of surrendering West Bank land that they believe is essential to Israeli security.

Mr Levy resigned as foreign minister at the beginning of the year saying that the

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

peace process with the Palestinians was moving too slowly. Since signing the peace accord brokered in Wye, Maryland, Mr Netanyahu has lost support on the far right and needs to buttress his coalition by adding Mr Levy. There is little love lost between the two men, however, and for several years they refused to speak to each other.

An alternative for Mr Netanyahu is to form a national unity government with the Labour party. But he would probably only do this if he had no alternative. Labour would demand a significant share of senior posts in the government as the price of its co-operation.

Although Mr Levy says he wants the Finance Ministry, currently held by Yacov Neeman who is willing to resign, he might settle for the Infrastructure Ministry. Both have significant political and financial patronage.

Mr Levy, 60, originally achieved prominence in Israeli

politics as a representative of Jews from the Middle East, and is a supporter of a generous social welfare programme.

Mr Netanyahu has accused the Palestinians of breaching their interim peace deal and urged President Bill Clinton to step in and stop them. Israeli officials said.

Mr Netanyahu's spokesman, David Bar-Ilan, said the Israeli leader had written to the American president citing "four major areas of violations" of the Wye agreement.

Israeli newspapers quoted sources in Washington as saying the US administration was worried that Mr Netanyahu was seeking excuses to halt implementation of the deal because of his coalition problems. On Monday, Palestinian officials said continued expansion of Jewish settlements on Israeli-occupied land in the West Bank and Gaza would destroy the peace process.

Mr Clinton is due to address the Palestine National Council in Gaza later this month.



A wounded Palestinian is assisted after Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets during clashes on the West Bank yesterday. A demonstration by students for the release of Palestinian political prisoners became violent when a mob smashed an Israeli civilian's car. Abbas Moumari

Hebrew clue to serial murders

A POOL of drying blood on the pavement marks where Osama Musa Abu Aisha Natshe bled to death yesterday morning after he was repeatedly stabbed by a masked man police say may be a Jewish serial killer. It is the seventh knife attack on a lone Palestinian walking to work since the end of last year.

"A masked man suddenly jumped out from behind a bus and started stabbing him with a knife," said Abdel Raouf Natshe, the dead man's cousin. "He started back towards home and shouted for his brothers. They came up, saw him soaked in blood, and called an ambulance." A knife with the Hebrew word for revenge written on it was reportedly found near the body.

The attacks, all involving the use of a knife, started in late 1997 in Mea Shearim, the ultra-Orthodox district in the centre of Jerusalem.

In May a 52-year-old Palestinian construction worker was the first of those attacked to die after he was stabbed as he walked to work from a Palestinian neighbourhood in east Jerusalem down a street which borders Mea Shearim.

Yair Yizhaki, the Jerusalem police commander, said his men were investigating links between yesterday's killing and previous attacks.

Mr Natshe, 41, died in much the same way as the last victim. His neighbours say he worked as a road cleaner for Jerusalem municipality and had six children.

His house is below the level of the main road, which cuts across the side of a steep hill in the Abu Tor district, which is divided between Palestinians and Israelis.

In the early dawn Mr Natshe climbed up the steps from his house on his way to work. He was stabbed almost as soon as he reached street level.

Yesterday afternoon, as his funeral was taking place in al-Aqsa mosque, his family built a makeshift shrine to him out of cement blocks, covering the blood stains with boughs from a pine tree growing near by.

A bloody towel and a tablecloth, with which somebody had tried to prevent Mr Natshe bleeding to death, hung on the railings beside the road.

Idris Hassan, a neighbour of the murdered man, said: "There has been little trouble in Abu Tor since the intifada [Palestinian uprising], but the

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

line dividing the city, before the Israelis captured the whole of it in 1967, ran down the centre of the street where Natshe was murdered."

The murder has raised the political temperature in Jerusalem, where it has been rising in recent days because of Palestinian disappointment that Israel has not released more Palestinian prisoners.

At the end of Mr Natshe's funeral yesterday afternoon there was rioting in Salah al-Din street, during which Israeli police fired rubber bullets and tear-gas. At the top of the street a lorry which rioters believed was owned by an Israeli company was set ablaze.

There were also riots yesterday north of Jerusalem, near the Palestinian enclave of Ramallah.

The clash began when 150 students from Bir Zeit university belonging to Fatah, the organisation of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority president, staged a march to demand the release of the 2,250 Palestinians held by Israel.

At one point they attacked a car with Israeli plates driven by a man wearing a skullcap and with a soldier sitting in the passenger seat.

They hurled stones at the car, smashing its windows and hitting the driver in the face. They then seized the M-16 rifle of the soldier and hit him over the head with stones until he ran away, bleeding. Eleven of the rioters were injured by rubber bullets fired later by Israeli soldiers.

Palestinians are incensed by the release of only 150 prisoners, most of whom are petty criminals, under the terms of the Wye accord now being implemented.

Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to Mr Arafat, says 1,250 prisoners belong to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which is recognised by Israel as representing the Palestinians, and 1,000 to Islamic organisations.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, says that he will not release prisoners who "have blood on their hands".

Bassam Eid, head of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, says only 300 of the Palestinian prisoners were convicted of killing Israelis or collaborators.

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FEATURES



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killer who has taken the
lives of three people

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 9

صكزا من الاصل

Venezuelan coup leader 'to win poll'

HUGO CHAVEZ tried for Venezuela's highest office once before. That was on 4 February 1992, when, as an army colonel, he launched a coup d'état against the elected government of President Carlos Andrés Pérez.

The coup attempt failed, 76 people were killed and Colonel Chavez was jailed. But he was paroled after two years and on Sunday he is likely to be elected as president of the South American nation in a democratic vote. It is a prospect that gives businessmen in Venezuela, not to mention investors around the world, the jitters.

Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves outside the Middle East and a free-market economy lauded by the International Monetary Fund. Colonel Chavez, 44, says that has done nothing to ease the poverty endured by half the nation.

He is promising a populist programme that has led his opponents to compare him with both the wartime Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro.

Even his supporters call him "el comandante", the title preferred by Fidel Castro for the past four decades. Many illiterate Venezuelans even see

BY PHIL DAVISON
Latin America Correspondent

moves, notably putting herself forward as the candidate for the centre-right Christian Democrat party (known by its acronym Copei), diluted her popularity and Col Chavez surged to the front with a predicted 50 per cent of votes. In a last-minute effort to keep him from power, both Copei and the country's other traditional big party, the centre-left Democratic Action, united behind a single candidate.

Both are now pinning their hopes on Henrique Salas Römer, 62, the suave, Yale-educated businessman and former economics professor best known for his successful tenure as governor of the state of Carabobo. He has pledged to halve the 1.3 million state workers whose salaries are seen as a drain on the budget and to implement a low-interest credit programme for small businesses.

In the latest polls, Mr Salas is trailing Col Chavez by 12 points, with a predicted 38 per cent of the vote. Ms Saez, who said she would run as an independent after being pushed aside by Copei, looks like receiving only a single-figure percentage.

Reacting to the name of Col Chavez's coalition, the Patriotic Pole, his opponents have billed themselves the Democratic Pole but Ms Saez said the new name merely polarises the nation further. "We are all democratic and we are all patriotic," she said at a campaign rally in Caracas. "We are all one people."

Well aware that his best chance is to scare voters away from his main opponent, Mr Salas upped the ante yesterday when he labelled Col Chavez "a monster, a coward and a potential dictator".

His comments not only heated up the campaign but poured fuel on rumours that the armed forces, fearing a Castro-style populist regime, might launch a coup d'état if their former comrade wins.

The man Col Chavez tried to overthrow in 1992, the then President Pérez, this week warned of a "violent rupture of the constitutional order" if Col Chavez wins.

"We have to admit we're within sight of a possible coup d'état," he said.

As it turned out, it was not Col Chavez who overthrew Mr Pérez - widely known in Venezuela as "Cap" from his initials - but corruption charges. The former president was jailed in 1993 until recently. The man elected to succeed Mr Pérez - current President Rafael Caldera - pardoned Col Chavez in 1994 after he had spent two years in jail for his coup attempt.

"Go ahead, call me a coup leader," Col Chavez yelled at a recent campaign rally. "Raise your hands if you think the coup was justified." The thousands present did so. His support shows disillusionment with the

fact that the free-market economics pushed forward by President Caldera have brought no improvement for the country's poor.

It is a sentiment increasingly seen throughout Latin America. Added to that is the widespread feeling that Mr Caldera's government has hovered between inept and corrupt. "Chavez will not be beaten by any earthing," said Aristobulo Isturiz, a political analyst. "Someone would have to come from another planet."

"He's nuts. He's completely out of his mind," said Carlos Delgado, an architecture professor. "If he wins, I'll go underground."



Former coup leader Hugo Chavez whose populous appeal is expected to swing Venezuelan presidential elections on Sunday AP/Jose Caruci

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Irene Saez: 'We are all one people'

Sign as "the second coming of Christ". Some of his opponents describe him as "nuts".

Among his plans: to declare a temporary moratorium on his country's foreign debt and to dissolve congress in order to draw up a constitution that he says will be more beneficial to the poor. As a result, the Venezuelan currency, the bolivar, has been sliding as the wealthy have begun moving their money abroad, mostly to the United States. Estate agents in Florida have had a rush in sales and leases of apartments to Venezuelans ready to flee the retired colonel's regime.

Until recently, the election was billed as a battle between "the Beauty and the Beast". Col Chavez, a retired paratrooper, was considered the latter.

The Beauty was a former Miss Universe, Irene Saez, a 36-year-old who was running ahead in the polls until the summer. She had successfully served as mayor of a better-off municipality in the capital, Caracas, but her high media profile belied a lack of grass roots support around the country.

A series of bad campaign

IN BRIEF

Partisans face war-crime charges

FINLAND IS considering bringing war crimes charges against former Soviet partisans for killing Finnish civilians during the Second World War, the state prosecutor, Christer Lundström, said. New investigations centre on Soviet attacks on Finnish villages in which 100 to 300 died.

Rembrandt painting 'a fake'

A PAINTING that has hung for years in the Hague's Mauritshuis museum, *Self-portrait with Gorget*, by the Dutch master Rembrandt, was declared a copy yesterday. Experts questioned the authenticity as there is a near-identical version in Nuremberg, Germany.

Synagogue to become shops

JOHANNESBURG'S MAIN synagogue may soon become a shopping centre after being put up for sale. The Great Synagogue, once the home of the country's Chief Rabbi, has been closed to worship for some time, owing to white emigration from the centre of the South African city.

Pope welcomes Cuban Christmas

THE VATICAN voiced pleasure that Cuba has decided to make Christmas a permanent holiday. Fidel Castro's government granted a Christmas holiday last year as a favour to the Pope, who visited in January. But this week the ruling Communist Party re-established the custom of a Christmas holiday, which was abolished in 1969.

Thief made to eat whole bird dies

A THIEF who stole a chicken in the central African state of Cameroon died after an enraged mob forced him to eat the entire bird, including feathers, bones and beak. The man went to a police station where he collapsed and died.



"I never knew
how much
I didn't know."

IBM

Chauffeur 'was Anwar's sex slave'

IN THE most riveting testimony to date in the dramatic trial in Kuala Lumpur of the jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim, his wife's former driver testified yesterday that he had been Mr Anwar's "homosexual slave".

Azizan Abu Bakar told the court that everything he said in a sworn statement made on 5 August 1997 - when Anwar was still deputy prime minister and finance minister - was true.

Mr Anwar, 38, was asked to read from the statement. "In the name of Allah... I have become a victim of homosexual acts by Anwar Ibrahim, who now holds the position of deputy prime minister," he read to a stunned courtroom. "This heinous act was committed several times in 1982 against my will. It regularly took place in luxury hotels... without the knowledge of the public and his wife."

Mr Anwar was the driver for Mr Anwar's wife, Azizah Ismail, from 1989 to 1992. He is now a sales executive in a trading company. "I had on several occasions tried to resist," Mr Anwar continued. "His chronic behaviour caused me great mental stress. The feeling of

BY ALVIN UNG

guilt finally overcame me whenever I had to gaze on Azizah, who had such high moral character. Finally, I made the decision to stop from becoming a homosexual slave to this man, Anwar Ibrahim, whom I regard as an animal."

Sodomy is a crime in this predominantly Muslim country. Mr Anwar showed no reaction during the graphic testimony. During the hunch break he hugged his daughter while his wife looked on solemnly.

He faces four counts of abuse of office, and will face trial later for one more charge of corruption and five counts of illegal sexual acts. He denies the charges, calling them part of a high-level conspiracy.

The Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, fired Mr Anwar on 2 September, saying he had conducted his own investigation and had determined Mr Anwar was morally unfit for office.

Earlier, witnesses for the prosecution - high-level police and intelligence officers - testified that Mr Anwar abused his

power by forcing police to get a retraction from Mr Azizan. Although Mr Anwar secured a retraction, which was forwarded to Mr Mahathir, Mr Azizan testified yesterday that he stood by his original statement.

Earlier in the day, the court proceedings came to a temporary halt when the judge, Augustine Paul, turned his attention to a second defence lawyer who accused prosecutors of fabricating evidence against Mr Anwar.

Manjeet Singh Dhillon, charged with contempt of court, represents Mr Anwar's former tennis partner, Nallakuruppan Solaimalai. Nalla, as he is called, is charged with possession of ammunition, which carries a death sentence.

On Monday, a warrant was issued by the court for Mr Manjeet Singh after he wrote a letter accusing prosecutors of trying to force Nalla into a plea bargain by giving false evidence against Mr Anwar about alleged sexual trysts. Mr Manjeet Singh quickly apologised yesterday. Mr Paul accepted the apology and resumed the trial, now in its fourth week. (AP)



Anwar Ibrahim leaving court, after it was alleged that he had 'enslaved' his wife's driver

Zainal Abd Halim

N Korea 'set for missile launch'

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Tokyo

THREE MONTHS after causing consternation throughout Asia by launching a rocket over Japan, North Korea is on the verge of test-firing another long-range ballistic missile, according to Japanese reports.

Officials quoted in yesterday's *Yomiuri Shimbun* said North Korea has been transferring what are believed to be missile components from storage to a launch site. The observations were reportedly made by American satellites. The paper said similar movements were detected in summer, before the launching of the North Korean rocket over northern Japan. Pyongyang said it was to put a satellite into orbit but suspicions remain that it was a new missile, able to hit targets throughout Japan and even in Alaska.

Japan only learnt about the first missile from the US military after it landed in the Pacific. Japan's Defence Agency later said it intended launching its own spy satellites as an independent safeguard against similar incursions. The report, which was not independently confirmed, may have much to do with the need of the Japanese defence establishment to maintain public concern about the North Korean threat. Since the incident there have been signs of a hardening of attitudes towards North Korea. Since the election as president of the former dissident Kim Dae Jung, South Korea has adopted a "sunshine policy" towards its fraternal enemy. But in Washington and Tokyo there is a sense of exasperation at impatience.

North Korea is cited as the main justification for the 100,000 US servicemen stationed in Asia. North Korea is frequently accused by the US of selling missile technology to other "rogue" states, including Iran, Syria and Pakistan. Yesterday the *Yomiuri* said "observers from the Middle East" were suspected of having entered North Korea for the rocket launch. It quoted Japanese officials as saying North Korea may notify Tokyo in advance, but that there is little hope the launch will be postponed.

China hints at harsh dealing with dissident leader

CHINA'S ROUND-UP of dissidents this week, including Xu Wenli, one of the most famous opposition figures still living in the country, has come within less than a month of its much publicised decision to sign a United Nations convention on civil and political rights.

In a letter signed by 191 pro-democracy campaigners, supporters of nine dissidents detained this week accused the authorities of "hypocrisy" for holding members of the Chinese Democratic Party, which has been trying to

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

register itself as a legal organisation. The UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which China signed, guarantees freedom of assembly and speech. The subsequent arrests of 11 Democratic Party leaders - two were quickly released - suggests that the authorities are not prepared to fulfil its requirements. Although there was much fanfare about the signing of the document, China is not yet subject

to the international monitoring stipulated in the UN convention. The arrests prompted two student leaders of the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement to begin a 48-hour hunger strike yesterday. They are demanding the release of Mr Xu and two other party leaders, Qin Yongmin and Wang Youcai. Seventeen other activists said they would join an organised fast. The tactic of hunger strikes was widely used during the 1989 protests. Its revival and the attempts to seek recognition for a opposition political party suggest

a new mood of defiance among the dissident community. Mr Xu, 55, is a veteran of the China 1978-79 Democracy Wall movement, which marks the brief era when public criticism of the regime was tolerated. However, the spirit of tolerance was limited and Mr Xu spent a decade in jail for his participation. He now chairs cells of the new party in Peking and the nearby city of Tianjin. Yesterday, the government indicated that it intended to deal harshly with him. A Foreign Ministry statement said he was

"suspected of activities which have harmed national security and his acts have violated relevant criminal codes of the People's Republic of China". The death penalty can be invoked for breaches of national security. The ministry also took strong exception to criticism of the arrests by the United States. "This is an internal matter and other nations should not interfere," it said. James Rubin, the US State Department spokesman had described Mr Xu's arrest as a "serious step in the wrong direction". He said the dissident was "peacefully exercising fundamental freedoms guaranteed by international human rights instruments".

Yesterday came the first acknowledgement by the Chinese authorities that the arrests had been made. The government appears to be taking the threat posed by this party seriously. Although small in number, the party seems to have members throughout the country and an organisational ability which was thought to have been largely destroyed by the 1989 crackdown.

In an interview published in Hong Kong on Tuesday, Li Peng, the former premier held largely responsible for the post-Tiananmen Square purge, said China had no need of Western-style democracy. Mr Li is now the chairman of the National People's Congress. In a clear reference to the Democratic Party, he said the authorities would not tolerate the existence of an organisation advocating the creation of a multi-party system and undermining the Communist Party.

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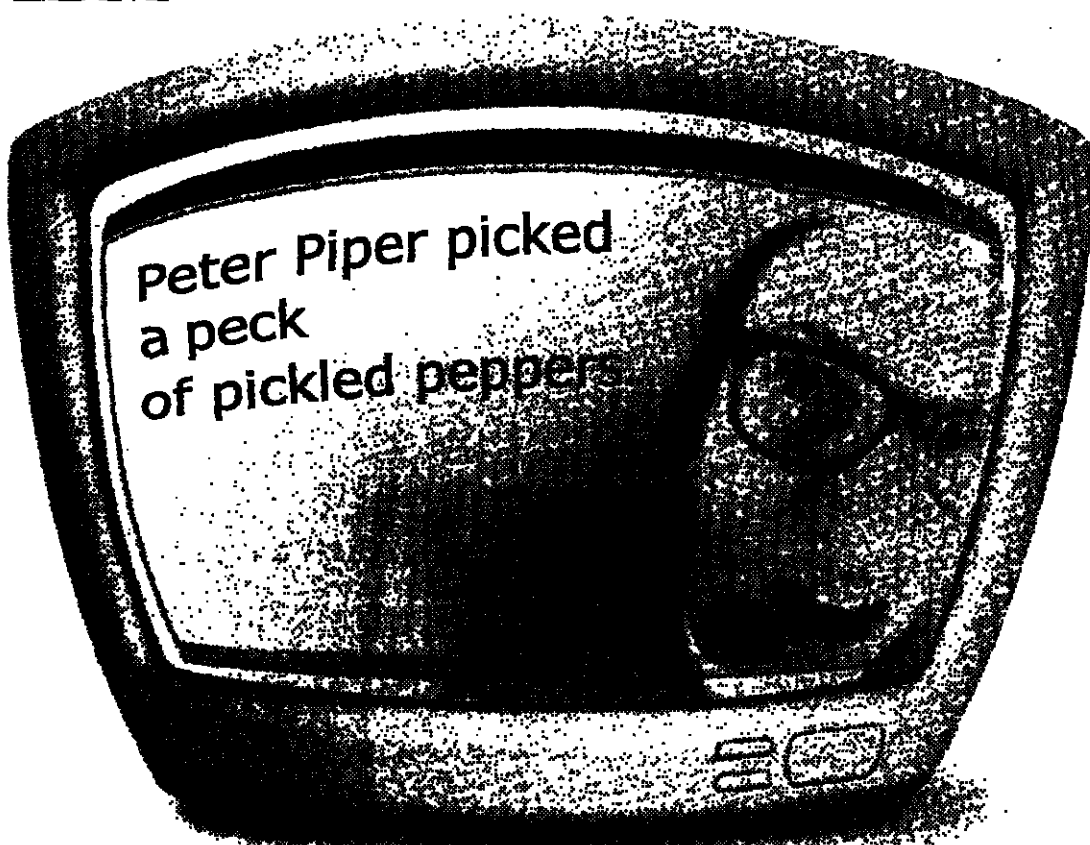
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Hindu zealots raid Muslim sacred shrine

HINDU NATIONALISTS are threatening to re-enact the events of six years ago when a mosque in the north-Indian state of Uttar Pradesh was demolished by a Hindu mob.

Today, at a shrine in the south-western state of Karnataka, the same forces are expected to attempt a re-run of the events which provoked a communal bloodbath in which hundreds died.

Six years ago on Sunday, Hindu nationalists tore down the Babri Masjid mosque in Ayodhya. It stood, they claimed, on the ruins of a Hindu temple marking the birthplace of the Hindu god Ram.

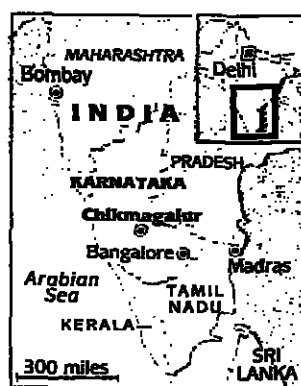
The site where the second action is threatened, known as Baba Budan Giri, is a religious hill town 170 miles from the state capital of Bangalore.

Baba Budan Giri is revered by Hindus and Muslims. It contains a Muslim shrine to the 18th-century mystic Sufi saint, Baba Budan, and a Hindu holy cave of Saint Dattathreya is located next to it.

Hindu leaders said they were not opposed to worship by Muslims at what they saw as their shrine but only sought to draw attention to alleged acts of sacrilege near the holy cave.

"We are only against the desecration of our shrine and are not against worship by both communities side by side," said

BY PETER POPHAM
in Delhi



JS Subba Rao of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, one of the Hindu groups involved.

About 4,000 Hindus are taking part in processions from different parts of the state to culminate in Baba Budan Giri.

Today is the birthday of Saint Dattathreya and five "rahi yatras", or Hindu processions, will converge on the shrine with the goal, according to organisers, of "liberating it from Muslim control".

In anticipation of trouble, 22 platoons of police reserves have been dispatched to the site, barricades have been thrown up to limit the number of people who can approach the shrine at one time to 15, and closed-circuit television has been installed.

The site was peaceful yesterday, with only a handful of Hindu activists chanting slogans.

The authorities are, however, braced for violence today.

When Ayodhya's mosque was demolished, the man heading the yatra which sparked the action was a Hindu nationalist named Lal Krishna Advani. Today Mr Advani is Minister for Home Affairs in the nationalist BJP party-led government.

Since he and his party gained office eight months ago, the plans to build a vast Hindu temple at Ayodhya have been finalised, and work on the elaborately carved stones is now far advanced. The organisers insist that building will go ahead whether the Supreme Court - now considering the controversy - gives them permission or not.

Today the Ayodhya site is like a war zone, with massed watchtowers and barricades and throngs of soldiers. The Karnataka authorities are deeply alarmed that the Chikmagalur shrine could go the same way.

But a Hindu spokesman said: "Our aim is not to have any confrontation. We recognise it as a place of both Sufi and Hindu saints, and want that it should be a fine example of how two communities can co-exist."

Fine words; but the sort of co-existence envisaged at Ayodhya has one community firmly beneath the other's heel.



Pakistani army bandmen attending the flag ceremony with India at the Wagah border station near Lahore

Karen Davies

Bullets and bugles 'over-the-fence'

FRONTLINE
WAGAH, PAKISTAN

YOU CAN tell the border is approaching when the ratio of uniforms per square hundred metres increases rapidly. On the outskirts of Lahore there are only occasional checkpoints manned by uninterested-looking paramilitaries. Soon, although the milestones show the border is 10 miles away, combat-suited soldiers appear at ever-decreasing intervals among the tall trees lining the road.

Beyond the trees the broad fields of the Punjab stretch away in the late afternoon haze. It is a vision that recalls all the Western clichés about the Orient - bullocks sway along the verge, driven by thin, old men in ragged, stained linen dhotis; women walk along the banks of irrigation channels with terracotta pots on their heads.

Wagah, the border station, looks incongruous in the wide, flat landscape. Beyond a scruffy bus stop and the bungalow offices of the customs men, a broad road runs for 250 metres towards a green-and-white painted gate, a large red arch - and then India.

At 5pm the red sun, swollen by the pollution above the distant city of Lahore, was setting.

Throughout the huge unbroken sky, small clouds were picked out in pink. It was time for one of the most extraordinary, but somehow saddening, rituals of the 1,800-mile border between India and Pakistan.

For 50-odd years - barring the occasional war - soldiers of the two countries have ceremonially raised and then lowered their respective flags at dawn and at dusk. Twice a day, like two neighbours in an over-the-fence feud, they glare at each other over their gates before taking part in a bizarre ritual resembling an It's a Knock-Out competition, in which points are awarded to the faster marchers, loudest shouters and most flamboyant uniforms.

On all but the latter count the Pakistanis appear to be winning - much to the enjoyment of the hundred or so on-lookers, all men, who had driven out from Lahore to watch the show. Every yelled

command was greeted by shouts and every stamped foot with cheers and applause.

"We are here to feel strong about Pakistan," said Mansoor Ahmed, a 30-year-old shopkeeper, who was crushed against me in the crowd. His face glowed with nationalist pride. "Can you not feel the spirit?" he asked. Mr Ahmed's friends obviously felt it - they shouted so hard they spat on the people in front.

The uniforms grew more extravagant as the ceremony progressed. First, policemen in khaki shirts and ill-fitting black trousers shepherded us into pens with their bamboo staves. But soon the regular army soldiers took over. They wore pea-green shirts and olive trousers and arrived in an eggshell-blue jeep giving them a pleasantly co-ordinated pastel look which their sub-machine guns did nothing to spoil.

They gave way to magnificent-looking men from the Punjab Rangers, fabulously decked out in pressed black shakhar-

kamees (the traditional Pakisthi suits), thick red sashes, striped neck scarves, and gold domed hats wrapped in black cloth sprouting into foot-high fans.

But, despite close competition from a troop of bagpipers with white tunics, scarlet plaid capes and gold epaulettes, the Indian buglers won with their combination of khaki fatigues, white puttees and fantastic red and gold-crested caps.

The border is closed to Pakistani and Indian citizens. The two great nations, separated at birth when they gained their independence from the British in 1947, have a tradition of enmity that can seem neurotic to outsiders. They have fought three wars and held dozens of rounds of talks aimed at improving relations. The most recent ended earlier this month with absolutely no progress. A hundred or so miles north of Wagah, in Kashmir, Indian and Pakistani troops routinely lob shells at each other and at any villagers who get in the way.

On the Siachen glacier, at altitudes of over 7,300m, soldiers are fighting, and dying. A proposed bus link between Delhi in India and Lahore in Pakistan

has been held up by bureaucratic tussles; trade between the neighbours is minuscule.

After the ceremony, we found a small group of south Asian peacekeepers drinking tea. They were delegates from the "India-Pakistan People's Forum for Peace and Democracy", a group of well-meaning intellectuals who gather every year or so to discuss ways of bringing the two countries closer together. This year the conference was in the western Pakistani city of Peshawar.

"There is so much commonality between us," said Ratti Bartholomew, a theatre director from Delhi. "Not on a government level but on a person-to-person level. Ordinary people don't feel any real enmity. It is just at a state-to-state level that things go wrong."

We laughed over how well the two nations' troops had co-ordinated the timing of their flag-raising and bugle-blowing. "It is so ironic," Mrs Bartholomew said. "After more than 50 years of independence the only thing we seem to be able to co-operate on is when to blow the 'Last Post'."

JASON BURKE

Lesbian film forced off screens

A LOW-BUDGET art movie which dares to broach the subject of lesbian love - a topic so taboo that there is no word for it in any Indian language - has been forced off the screens in cinemas across Bombay.

Dozens of supporters of Shiv Sena, the right-wing party which began in Bombay's slums, invaded two cinemas yesterday, surrounding the managers and demanding that *Fire in Bombay* be pulled.

The protesters claimed that the film, which depicts how a lesbian relationship flowers amid the lies and repressions of a conventional Indian family, "distorts" Indian culture.

BY PETER POPHAM

The film's distributor, Shringar Films, suspended screenings citing concern for audience safety.

Shiv Sena, implicated in brutal attacks on Muslims in the past, are well-known for their violent tactics. "We will wait and watch," said Balkrishna Shroff, one of the owners of Shringar Films.

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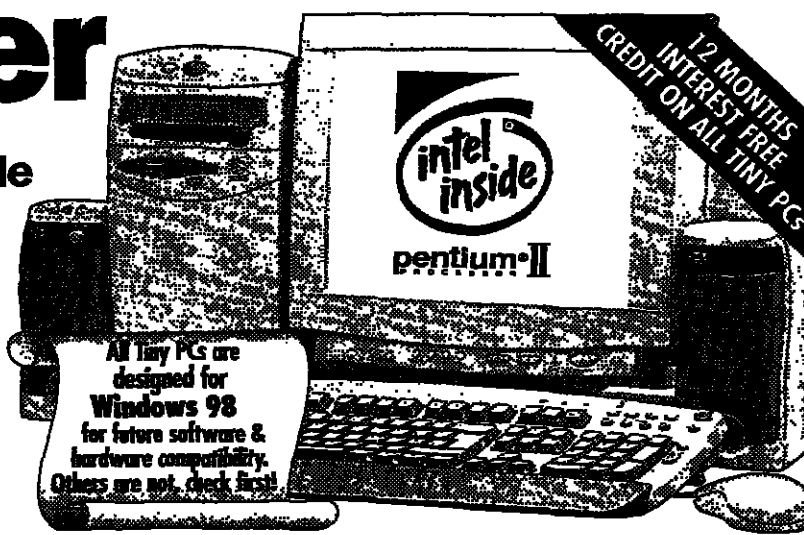
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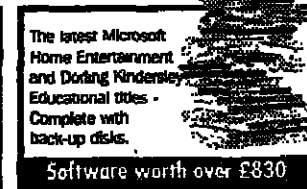
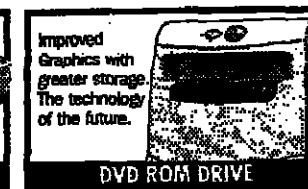
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

G7 ministers to meet in February

FINANCE MINISTERS and central bankers from the Group of Seven leading industrial countries will meet in Bonn on 20 February, it was announced yesterday.

Reform of the international financial system in the wake of the crises of the past 12 months will be high on the agenda. German officials are drawing up proposals that build on the G7 announcement in October of a new line of credit for countries in danger of teetering into crisis. Other reforms are also likely, including the strengthening of the International Monetary Fund's "interim" or management committee.

BCCI depositors fly in



AROUND 250 depositors representing \$2bn lost when BCCI went bust in 1991 (pictured) have flown in to London for today's annual meeting of the BCCI Depositors' Protection Association.

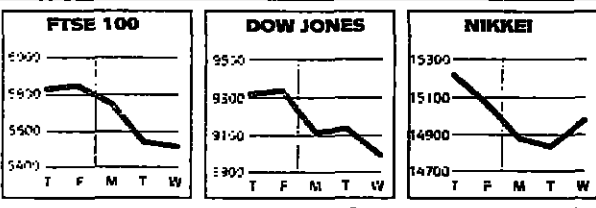
They will meet at the offices of Deloitte & Touche, the UK-based liquidators, while the bank's co-liquidators from the Cayman Islands and Luxembourg will also be present. BCCI's operations in more than 60 countries were closed by regulators after years of fraud, which left creditors nursing losses of over \$10bn. The liquidators have paid back 46 per cent to creditors so far, and today's meeting will discuss the possibility of further payouts.

Deutsche Bank's £360m buy

FOLLOWING ITS \$10bn takeover of Bankers Trust on Monday, Germany's Deutsche Bank yesterday bought Credit Lyonnais Belgium for Dm1bn (£360m).

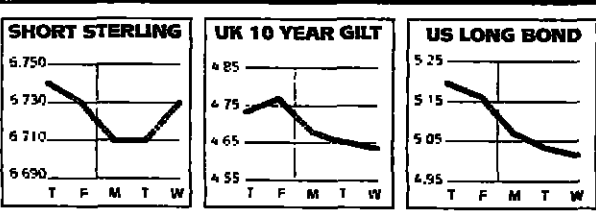
The bank is Belgium's sixth largest bank. Credit Lyonnais, which was the subject of one of the biggest government bail-outs of recent history, is being forced by the European Commission to divest its non-French activities. Deutsche already has sizeable retail operations in both Italy and Spain and is on the hunt for suitable quarry in France.

STOCK MARKETS



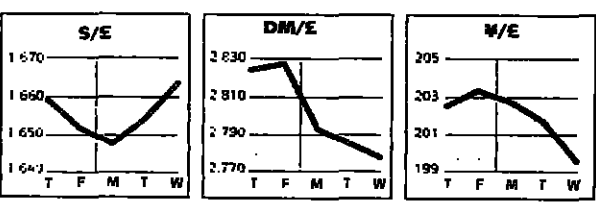
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yr Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5907.20	-30.30	-0.51	6183.00	4599.00	3.41
FTSE 250	4804.40	-17.00	-0.35	5970.00	4247.00	4.81
FTSE 350	2519.00	-13.50	-0.52	2869.00	2210.00	3.63
FTSE All Share	2530.80	-12.61	-0.50	2886.52	2143.53	3.68
FTSE SmallCap	2036.20	-2.70	-0.13	2793.80	1834.40	4.12
FTSE Previews	1129.70	1.10	0.10	1517.10	1046.20	0.00
FTSE AIM	607.00	1.30	0.16	1146.00	761.00	0.00
FTSE 2500 100	911.10	-12.53	-1.36			
Dow Jones	8990.65	-145.93	-1.60	9380.20	7400.30	1.67
Nikkei	14986.62	151.21	1.02	17353.00	12788.00	0.98
Hang Seng	10055.78	79.33	0.80	11926.00	6544.00	3.11
Dax	4691.63	-90.04	-1.88	6217.83	3833.71	1.89

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.87	-0.88	6.32	-1.59	4.62	-1.85	4.38	-1.98
US	5.28	-0.64	5.07	-0.98	4.56		5.02	
Japan	0.46	-0.21	0.52	-0.24	1.19	-0.77	1.89	-0.72
Germany	3.64	-0.11	3.45	-0.64	3.93	-1.49	4.83	-1.15

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
Dollar	1.6631	+0.906	1.6451		0.6013	-0.33p	0.6078	
D-Mark	2.7783	-0.21p	2.9743		1.6708	-0.59p	1.7987	
Yen	199.34	-2.82	215.94		119.90	-2.32	130.58	
E index	100.00	0.00	105.40		106.60	0.00	107.70	

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Best	Next
Brent Oil (\$)	9.59	-0.08	18.01	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Dec
Gold (\$)	293.75	0.10	293.55	RPI	164.50	3.10	159.55	Nov
Silver (\$)	4.88	0.00	5.32	Base Rates	6.75	7.25		

www.bloomberg.com/uk

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.5122	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.98
Austria (schillings)	19.02	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0489
Belgium (francs)	55.87	New Zealand (\$)	2.9936
Canada (\$)	2.6664	Norway (krone)	12.05
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7994	Portugal (escudos)	275.31
Denmark (krone)	10.36	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0262
Finland (markka)	8.2412	Singapore (\$)	2.6053
France (francs)	9.0818	Spain (pesetas)	230.06
Germany (marks)	2.7179	South Africa (rand)	8.9978
Greece (drachma)	456.09	Sweden (krone)	13.14
Hong Kong (\$)	12.42	Switzerland (francs)	2.2305
Ireland (pounds)	1.0876	Thailand (bahts)	54.61
India (rupees)	63.28	Turkey (liras)	482.212
Israel (shekels)	6.4121	USA (\$)	1.6155
Italy (lira)	2692		
Japan (yen)	197.54		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0260		
Malta (lira)	0.6077		



Arcadia, the retailer that includes Burton, Principles and Top Shop, blames a downturn in consumer spending for its profit warning. Tom Craig

High street jitters as Christmas looks bleak

BRITAIN'S HIGH street retailers looked set for an increasingly nervous Christmas yesterday after a string of downbeat announcements pointed to weakening consumer spending.

Arcadia, the clothing retailer that includes Burton Menswear, Principles and Top Shop, led the way with a shock profits warning which knocked 26 per cent from the company's share price.

Separately, Allied Carpets said its already weak sales had fallen further and that trading patterns were unpredictable. Hornby, the model railway and Scalextric group, also issued a profits warning and said nervous retailers were holding back on orders due to fears of poor Christmas demand.

The catalogue of woes sent retail stocks tumbling. While Arcadia shares fell 75.5p to 212.5p,

claimed the company had said trading was in line only six weeks ago.

"It will take a while for them to re-build their credibility after this," one analyst said. Brokers were forced to cut profit forecasts sharply, with BT Alex Brown and HSBC James Capel reducing their full-year expectations to £80m from £90m and £80m respectively.

Arcadia's warning follows a string of grim statements from Britain's retailers as the fear of recession gathers pace.

Mark's & Spencer announced a 23 per cent fall in profits last month and described the clothing market as a "bloodbath". Since then there has also been bad news from Storehouse, which owns Bhs and Mothercare, and other fashion groups such as New Look.

John Hoerner, Arcadia's chief executive, said: "You never know for sure how Christmas selling is going to come, and different patterns have occurred in recent years, but with the current trend of the start of the season, it certainly isn't good news."

Mr Hoerner added that the downturn had not only hit its high street chains but also its home-shopping joint venture with Littlewoods, mail-order brands Hawkeshead and Racing Green, and catalogues linked to the Evans and Principles chains.

Meanwhile Hornby, the trains and Scalextric group, reported a sharp fall in first-half profits from £973,000 to £425,000.

Peter Newey, Hornby's chairman, said: "A lot of consumers are very nervous, and retailers think there is going to be a recession. That has had an impact on suppliers."

The problem has been exaggerated by retailers keeping a tight control on stock and delaying regular Christmas orders.

In an effort to control costs, Hornby will be moving almost all of its model railway production to China next year.

Allied Carpets said underlying sales in the first 22 weeks were down by 8.2 per cent compared to the 7.5 per cent fall announced just five weeks ago.

The details were included in a circular sent to shareholders relating to the sale of its Carpetland stores to the rival Carpetright group. Allied Carpets has been the subject of bid speculation with Carpetright and Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group, expressing interest.

Marley rescued by £364m Belgian bid

MARLEY, the building materials group facing a £283m break-up bid, looked set to be rescued yesterday when Etex, a Belgian rival, launched a £364.8m cash bid for the company.

Marley recommended that shareholders accept the 125p-a-share offer, which represents a 60 per cent premium to its share price a week ago, as Etex went into the market to buy a 20 per cent stake in the company.

David Trapnell, chief executive of Marley, yesterday insisted Etex had approached Marley about the deal "weeks before" the hostile bid last week from John Mansfield, the small timber merchant being used as a takeover vehicle.

"We have known this group [Etex] for a long time and there has been a close link over the years. We have been talking and in the last few weeks we have taken that a stage forward," Mr Trapnell said.

BY ANDREW VERITY

Mr Trapnell said Etex had assured him it would keep the group intact "for the time being".

Mr Trapnell and Chris Beenharn, the finance director and the only other executive director, will leave after staying "a few months" to oversee the integration with Etex.

Etex is a privately-owned building materials group, roughly twice the size of Marley, with a turnover of 74.8 Belgian francs (£1.4bn).

Specialising in plastics, roofing and flooring, it has operations in Europe and Latin America, including a joint venture with Marley in Brazil.

Its offer came just six days after the hostile paper bid by John Mansfield Group, a takeover vehicle headed by Stuart Wallis, the former chairman of Fisons, and backed by

the financiers Brian Myerson and Julian Tregner.

John Mansfield said yesterday it was "considering its options". But sources familiar with the company said it was unlikely to make a higher bid.

Phillips & Drew fund management, which holds a 14.9 per cent stake in Marley, encouraged the break-up bid after meeting Mr Trapnell in September to discuss the company's strategic review.

The fund manager was said to be "very disappointed" when Marley came out with no firm plan of action after years of poor performance.

It agreed to underwrite £15m of John Mansfield's costs and is now sitting on a profit of around £20m as a result of the takeover battle.

The Etex offer caused Marley's share price to jump 17.5p yesterday to 123p, up from 78p last week.

World Bank predicts recession next year

THERE IS A "substantial risk" that the world will plunge into recession next year according to a gloomy new forecast from the World Bank.

The sister organisation to the International Monetary Fund warns that sharp stockmarket falls in the US and Europe, or a continuing pause in international capital flows, could bring global growth to a halt in 1999.

Even taking a more optimistic outlook, the developing countries face their worst growth prospects since the third world debt crisis nearly 20 years ago, it says.

Contraventionally, the new report also recommends that some developing countries should restrict or tax "hot money" capital flows to safeguard against future crises.

Joseph Stiglitz, the World Bank's chief economist, concludes that the recent crises reveal fundamental weaknesses

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

in the international financial system.

"When a single car has an accident on a bend in the highway, one might infer something about the driver or his car. But when, at the same bend, there are accidents day in and day out, the presumption changes - there is probably something wrong with the road," he writes.

The bank welcomes the recent US interest rate cuts and Japanese fiscal package but calls for further measures to avert a deep global slump. The risk of a worsening recession in Japan and slower growth in the US and Europe if share prices suffer a sharp correction make prospects for 1999 precarious, the report warns.

It forecasts that global growth will nearly halve from 3.2 per cent in 1997 to 1.8 per cent

in 1999, and puts a high probability on zero growth next year. The crisis-ridden Asian economies are likely to have seen an 8 per cent drop in GDP this year, with no growth in prospect next year.

Developing countries will be hit hardest. Brazil, Indonesia, Russia and other countries, accounting for a quarter of world demand, have suffered a decline in GDP per head this year.

The report argues for an expansion in demand, a better social safety net, and injections of public funds for banking reform in the crisis countries. It estimates that the cost will amount to 20 to 30 per cent of their GDP. "Continuing financial support from the international community is vital," it says.

The report comes out in favour of restrictions on the more volatile short-term capital flows in future to reduce the risk of repeat crises.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

THE STOCK MARKET closed lower yesterday, with sentiment dominated by profit warnings and weakness on Wall Street. The FTSE-100 ended 30.3 points lower at 5907.2, its lowest point of the day on heavy turnover of over 1 billion stocks.

The blue-chip index lacked direction for most of the day but headed firmly downwards in early afternoon after the Dow opened with a three-digit loss. The FTSE-250 ended 17.0 lower at 4804.4 and the small cap 2.7 worse off at 2036.2.

Market report, page 25

NEW YORK

PROFIT WARNINGS from Boeing and Sears, Roebuck sent the Dow Jones plummeting down through the 9,000 barrier, amid fears that economic growth would slow in the new year. "Stocks have had a tremendous run, so investors are looking for any bad news as an excuse to sell," said one analyst.

Internet stocks fell after the Wall Street Journal suggested some companies might be overvalued. The Dow Jones had fallen to 8,975 by early afternoon, a 1.75 per cent drop from the previous day's close.

TOKYO

THE NIKKEI tested the 15,000 barrier yesterday, closing at 14,986, a 1 per cent gain on the day. In thin trading, shares recovered from early falls, as hopes that politicians might suspend sales taxes persisted.

Electronics companies led the way, after US computer shares rallied on Wall Street overnight. Hitachi and Toshiba each rose 3 per cent. "Some of the optimism about hi-tech profits is spilling over into the market. Investors have been staying away because of economic gloom in Asia," said one dealer.

HONG KONG

AN OVERNIGHT rise on Wall Street brought calm to anxious Asian markets yesterday, with the Hang Seng Index ending up nearly 1 per cent at 10,053, after being up over 2 per cent earlier in the day. The surge was led by property stocks, as a report announcing a rise in apartment sales was published.

Dealers said market sentiment was very cautious, with investors still unsure if Wall Street can stabilise. "Traders are waiting for a chance to bargain-hunt at lower levels" said one analyst.

FRANKFURT

GERMAN SHARES slumped yesterday, in line with other European exchanges, with BMW and Deutsche Bank leading the way. The DAX index finished the day down 1.4 per cent at 4,712.

BMW dropped 4 per cent after it was announced that Rover's chief executive Walter Hasselkus would be sacked, and that a further £2bn would be invested in the loss-making Rover group. Deutsche Bank, which announced the Dm1bn acquisition of Credit Lyonnais' Belgian operation on Tuesday, fell 4 per cent.

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News Analysis: Jetmaker's decision to slash production threatens £1.4bn trade with UK suppliers

Asian flu kills off 48,000 jobs at Boeing

THE PUGET SOUND, a stretch of water that cuts inland from the north-west Pacific coast of the United States, is Boeing country. From Everett in the north, on through Boeing Fields and downtown Seattle, to Renton at the southern tip of the Puget, the familiar logo of the world's biggest aircraft manufacturer dominates the landscape.

Sure, Seattle has other household names and other big employers - Microsoft and Starbucks, the coffee people, come to mind. But when Boeing sneezes, the Puget shakes. Yesterday, it was still reverberating from Boeing's stunning announcement that it intends to shed 48,000 employees - a fifth of its workforce - over the next two years and cut back production savagely.

Boeing has caught a bad dose of the Asian flu and its workforce is paying the price for the collapse in air travel and hence demand for passenger jets in the Pacific Rim. But the effects will be felt not just in Puget Sound. Boeing is a big spender in the UK as well, where it buys £1.4bn worth of supplies a year from 200 component firms including Rolls-Royce, British Aerospace, GE, Marconi and Smiths Industries. Across Europe, some

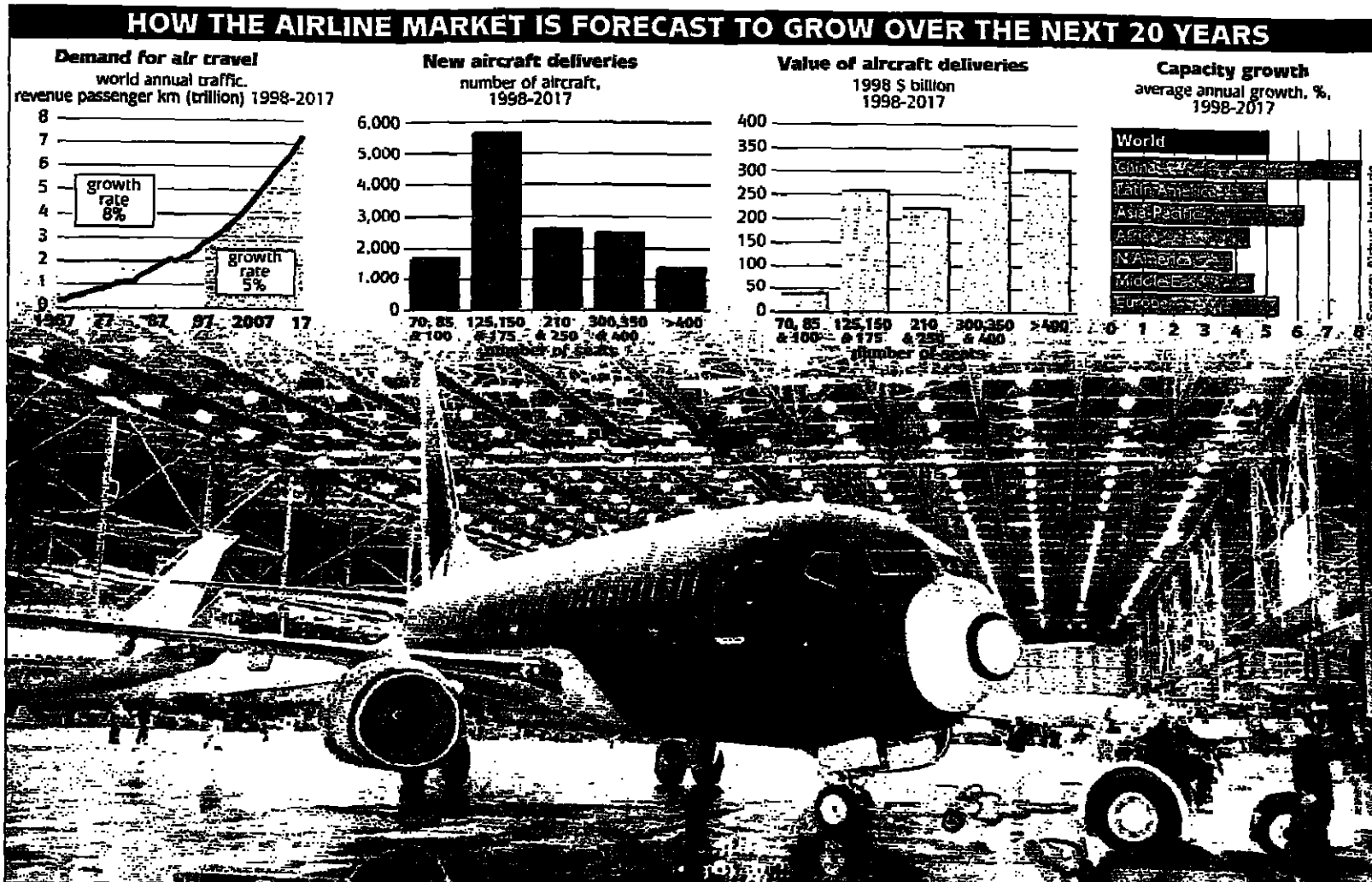
BY MICHAEL HARRISON

90,000 direct and indirect jobs are said to depend on Boeing orders. Half of those job cuts were already in the pipeline. Nevertheless, the scale of the additional reductions, coupled with a warning that profits would be \$500m lower next year than forecast, caught the aerospace industry and Wall Street on the hop.

Production of Boeing's entire model range, with the exception of the new 737-400, will be cut back. Output of the 747 Jumbo jet, Boeing's biggest profit earner, will fall from 3.5 a month now to two in 1999 and just one a month the year after.

Production of the New Generation 737, the workhorse of most airline fleets, is also being trimmed back by more than 10 per cent, while the 757 and 767 lines will slow down.

The Asian downturn has not yet materialised in cancelled, delayed or deferred orders. In fact Boeing has lost just three orders in the region so far - and that followed the collapse of Philippines Airlines. Worldwide deliveries this year are on target to reach 550 and are forecast to increase to 620 next year. Boeing expects to deliver all 84 aircraft on order from Asian airlines in 1999.



But beyond that, the market falls off a cliff. Harry Stonecipher, Boeing's chief operating officer, said yesterday: "Options are not being exercised and there is zero market growth. It is not a pretty picture, nor is it improving. We think this situation will take between two and five years to work through."

Not everyone in the aviation industry is convinced by Boeing's explanation. Over the last decade, the workforce at Seattle has gone up and down like a fiddler's elbow - more because of Boeing's inability to match production capacity to customer demand than because of any collapse in the market.

The last big jobs cut took

place in the early 1990s when the workforce was trimmed by 30 per cent. But just as Seattle was recovering from that, Boeing unveiled a hugely ambitious programme to double production and, until last year, it was taking on workers at the rate of 1,000 a month. Then Boeing hit the buffers in late 1997 when it had to cut back production of the New Generation 737 because of acute bottlenecks in its assembly lines.

The resulting financial mayhem and penalty payments to airlines drove the company into its first loss in five decades.

A rival aerospace executive said: "When I heard the news from Seattle I could not believe it. Boeing is blaming the Asian

crisis for its troubles but the reality is that it has been too greedy."

Doug McVitie, managing director of the Arran Aerospace aviation consultancy, agrees: "I'm not sure all of this can go down to the situation in Asia. They overextended themselves and left very little margin for error."

Boeing's problems are compounded by the fact that it is losing market share to its European rival Airbus Industrie, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake. This year the Toulouse-based consortium has scooped half the market for new orders, which explains its air of confidence and rapidly growing

production lines. Airbus has increased production by 25 per cent this year to 230 aircraft and expects to raise output to 290 aircraft in 1999 and 320 the following year. Overall, Airbus forecasts that the world's airlines will require 13,600 new aircraft of 70 seats or more over the next 20 years, worth a total of \$1,200bn.

The Asian market is important. It accounts for 20 per cent of world airline traffic and is forecast to grow at a faster rate than any other part of the world except for China in the next 20 years. But Adam Brown, vice-president of forecasting and strategic planning at Airbus, thinks the impact of the Asian crisis has been overdone. He estimates

that the areas of Asia that are in decline represent only 7 per cent of the world airline market. "If air travel in all these areas were to come to a complete standstill for a year, total world air traffic would show hardly any decline at all. Also, despite the severe short-term problems facing the Asian airlines, the fundamentals underlying the region's great potential for sustained long-term economic growth remain unchanged."

It will be some months before Boeing's UK suppliers feel the full backdraft from the cutbacks in Seattle. Meanwhile, at least there is the consolation of knowing that Boeing's loss is Airbus Industrie's gain.

Bonuses safe, Deutsche tells staff

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

STAFF AT the City offices of BT Alex Brown have been told that their 1998 bonuses will not be affected by the \$10bn takeover by Germany's Deutsche Bank and will be paid out as planned in January.

In an internal e-mail to staff, following the merger deal announced on Monday, Frank Newman, the Bankers Trust chairman, said: "Until the merger closes in the coming months BT will continue to operate independently and bonuses and promotions for 1998 will continue to be approved in our normal process and announced as planned in January."

Deutsche's chief executive, Rolf Breuer, said on Monday that 5,500 jobs would go as a result of the merger, with most of the cuts falling in London and New York.

The top three members of the integration committee, Yves de Balman, Michael Philipp, and Edson Mitchell, met Bankers staff in London yesterday for a series of meetings at which they promised to have the outlines of the new management structure in place early in the New Year.

"Meritocracy will be the driving force behind the merger," Mr de Balman told staff yesterday.

Yesterday's assurances have been met with a certain amount of scepticism by BT Alex Brown staff.

"How can they decide what bonuses to pay before they have decided who will stay and who will go?" said one BT Alex Brown insider.

MPC's new boy is an academic and proud of it

THE APPOINTMENT earlier this year of John Vickers to the Monetary Policy Committee responsible for determining UK interest rates raised a few eyebrows. An Oxford academic with little experience in monetary policy, he joined a committee some thought was already too light on practical experience and too overburdened with pointy heads.

However, speaking to *The Independent* in his first interview since taking up the post, Mr Vickers, the Bank of England's new chief economist, vigorously defended his academic background, his track record and the MPC's remit.

As part of his defence against critics who charge the MPC with failing to understand what's going on in business, he points to his successful experience in managing the finances of his Oxford college. He can boast of making money even when the stock market crashed in 1987.

According to Mr Vickers, who will concede that sitting on the MPC is a "heavy responsibility", he is comfortable with the rate decisions he has taken. And that includes the controversial decision to raise interest rates in June on the back of subsequently discredited figures on average earnings.

He said: "The appraisal of decisions has to be on the information that was available. I'm personally comfortable with the vote I expressed."

Mr Vickers, an Oxford-based father of three, says he has "absolutely no regrets" about his decision to leave academia, a decision triggered by an unexpected phone call from Mervyn King, now deputy governor of the Bank.

According to Mr Vickers, his relative lack of private sector experience - he was briefly an

BY LEA PATERSON

oil analyst at Shell and has also undertaken a number of private consulting projects - has not disadvantaged him in any way.

For the job of Bank chief economist, said Mr Vickers, "you need a generalist applied economics approach and Mervyn [King, former chief economist] and John [Fleming, former chief economist] were in that mould."

Also important, according to the MPC new boy, is the ability to understand what is happening in the financial mar-



John Vickers: Comfortable with his rate decisions

kets, as that 1987 post-crash performance demonstrates.

The 40-year-old former professor refuted the suggestion that Bank staff felt obliged to vote the same way as Eddie George, the Bank of England Governor. He said it was pure coincidence he had voted the same way on interest rates as Mr George since joining the MPC in the summer.

"The conclusion I have reached has turned out to be the same as the conclusion the Governor has reached. But it is quite clear we're all individually

on the line. If there are disagreements, there are disagreements, and that's that."

Mr Vickers, who attended the April and May MPC meetings as an observer before voting as an elected member in June, said the committee did not "hold back" in its discussions.

"We're all charged with exactly the same thing. Our remit is very clear. The discussions are very free-ranging. People will happily ventilate points of view that are not their own. I think there is a very frank atmosphere."

He is upbeat about recent developments in the financial markets. "It's been very encouraging how things stabilised since the period of the IMF meetings on all sorts of measures."

The outlook, though, for both the global economy and the UK, remains uncertain, he said. Among the uncertainties is the new European Central Bank, which will set interest rates in the euro-area from January.

The ECB's decisions certainly have the ability to affect the UK, according to Mr Vickers, "in the same way that decisions in the US can affect us", via the stock market, exchange rates and the direct impact on trade.

Like the European bank, the MPC faces numerous challenges, not least improving its public image, which has taken a hammering lately.

According to Mr Vickers, "There's inevitably a long way to go. The misperception that there might be a trade-off where we say OK, let's have a bit more inflation and then we can sustainably have more jobs is just downright false."

"Explaining clearly why there is no trade-off of that kind is an important thing to do."

IN BRIEF

Thinktank issues EC tax warning

AN INDEPENDENT European thinktank has warned that the European Commission's proposals for a tax on investment income could spell disaster for Europe's capital markets. According to Promethee, applying the withholding tax to the wholesale financial markets could drive the lucrative eurobond business to Switzerland or New York. Albert Bressand, Promethee's managing director, said a recent study estimating the tax could cost 11,000 jobs "was a gross understatement".

Bonuses dry up

NEARLY A quarter of UK executive directors have failed to earn bonuses this year as a result of a closer link between pay-outs and performance, according to Hay Management Consultants. The Hay Boardroom Guide, an analysis of top executive pay, shows that directors' base salaries rose by about 6 per cent in the year to May, compared with 5 per cent for the workforce as a whole. However, there was a great variation in bonuses, with 22 per cent receiving no bonus at all.

Mentmore boost

SHARES OF Mentmore Abbey, the storage company, yesterday rose 17.5p to 108.5p on news of a strategic alliance with US competitor Iron Mountain. Mentmore, which will sell 50.1 per cent of its British Data Management business to Iron Mountain for £27.3m, also reported a 43 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £3.3m.

Readicut up 6%

READICUT, the fibre and vinyl products manufacturer, yesterday announced a 6 per cent rise in pre-tax profit before exceptional items to £4.6m. Brian Leckie, company chief executive, said that its disposal programme was near completion, but that trading in the UK remains fiercely competitive.

Print jobs axed

NEWS COMMUNICATIONS and Media, the regional newspaper group, yesterday announced that it will close its operation in Dursley, Gloucestershire, within the next 12 months, with the loss of up to 160 jobs. Printing will be transferred to its new £13m plant at Weymouth, Dorset, in late 1999.

HSBC Midland Bank

Interest Rates

Advice of interest rate changes for personal customers from 3 December 1998

Rates for Savers

High Interest Savings 90 days notice (Annual interest option)	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	High Interest Savings 90 days notice (Monthly interest option)	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98
	Gross	Gross		Gross	Gross
£100,000 +	6.85%	6.35%	£100,000 +	6.65%	6.18%
£50,000 +	6.55%	6.05%	£50,000 +	6.37%	5.89%
£10,000 +	6.45%	5.95%	£10,000 +	6.27%	5.80%
Up to £10,000	6.25%	5.75%	Up to £10,000	6.08%	5.61%
Midland Instant Access Savings (Annual interest option)	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	Midland Instant Access Savings (Monthly interest option)	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98
	Gross	Gross		Gross	Gross
£50,000 +	6.00%	5.50%	£50,000 +	5.85%	5.37%
£25,000 +	5.35%	4.85%	£25,000 +	5.23%	4.56%
£10,000 +	4.85%	4.20%	£10,000 +	4.75%	4.13%
£5,000 +	4.60%	4.00%	£5,000 +	4.51%	3.93%
Up to £5,000	4.25%	4.00%	Up to £5,000	4.17%	3.93%
Deposit Account 7 days notice (No longer sold)	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	Tessa and follow-up Tessa (Annual Tax Free Interest)	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98
	Gross	Gross			
£50,000 +	5.92%	5.44%		7.80%	7.30%
£25,000 +	5.29%	4.61%			
£10,000 +	4.80%	4.16%			
£5,000 +	4.58%	3.97%			
Up to £5,000	4.21%	3.97%			

Mortgages*

	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98
	APR	Int. Rate p.a.
Home Loan Rate	9.0%	8.5%
Home Improvement Loan Rate	11.0%	10.5%
Home Mortgage Rate	8.9%	8.4%

Other Secured Borrowing

	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98
	APR	Int. Rate p.a.
HomeOwner Reserve	12.6%	11.80%

Base Rate 6.75%
effective from 5 November 1998

Bank Accounts

	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98
	Gross	Gross
Student Bank Account	1.99%	1.49%
16 - 19 Year Old Account	2.23%	1.74%
Livecash	4.17%	3.93%
	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98
	Gross	Gross
Midland Bank Account	0.40%	0.25%
Meridian Bank Account	3.45%	3.45%
£50,000 +	3.21%	2.96%
£20,000 +	1.49%	1.49%
Up to £2,000	1.00%	0.50%

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax, applicable to savers.
Gross CAR (Compounded Annual Rate): The true gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments.
Tax Free: Tax Free means that interest is not subject to income tax.
*Mortgage rates for new borrowers were effective from 17 November 1998.
All rates are correct as at 3 December 1998 but may vary in the future.

HSBC is the marketing name of Midland Bank plc.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Alfa (t)	117.87m (10.51bn)	3.76m (2.21m)	5.81p (4.76p)	1.8p (1.4p)	-	28.03.98
Babcock (t)	22.507m (22.58bn)	3.89m (4.97m)	5.11p (7.24p)	2.5p (2.2p)	-	01.03.98
Black (t)	75.244m (75.301m)	11.588m (12.854m)	25.10p (25.03p)	14.59p (14.00p)	-	22.02.98
Horbury (t)	9.4m (11.08m)	0.425m (0.573m)	3.49p (0.03p)	2.0p (2.0p)	-	04.01.99
Compass (Holdings) (t)	20.567m (9.97m)	4.570m (2.550m)	10.32p (6.77p)	1.25p (1.00p)	-	14.12.98
Eve Brown (t)	48.731m (44.04m)	1.970m (1.540m)	12.39p (10.40p)	2.5p (2.5p)	-	08.03.98
Greene King (t)	154.5m (152.1m)	30.5m (18.1m)	25.79p (23.79p)	5.85p (5.30p)	-	14.12.98
Harrogate International (t)	72.125m (68.22m)	4.2m (3.8m)	2.57p (2.15p)	0.70p (0.65p)	-	25.01.99
Midland (Holdings) (t)	21.8m (15.9m)	1.34m (1.29m)	4.5p (4.5p)	1.0p (-)	-	14.12.98
Hay Management Consultants (t)	163.988m (132.23m)	76.145m (57.358m)	70.5p (61.30p)	46.5p (40.0p)	-	14.12.98
M & G (t)	15.982m (15.511m)	2.3m (2.3m)	2.89p (2.03p)	0.37p (0.34p)	-	14.12.98
Midland (Holdings) (t)	133.20m (120.02m)	8.67m (7.55m)	8.0p (6.50p)	1.85p (-)	-	12.12.98
MPC (t)	74.820m (145.92m)	-3.18m (4.531m)	1.87p (1.45p)	0.62p (0.62p)	-	14.12.98
Readicut (t)	53.02m (50.88m)	-36m (0.01m)	1.54p (1.80p)	0.88p (0.88p)	-	04.01.99

(t) = Total (t) = Interim (t) = Quarterly (t) = Split Period (t) = Nine Months

Stocks

Turbulent ride for aerospace shares

ROSPACE ENGINEERS went into a tailspin yesterday as bearish words from the aircraft-maker Boeing caused a bout of turbulence in the sector. US investors were said to be keen to dump the aero-stocks after the shock profit warning by the American giant.

They are worried that shrinking demand for Boeing and Airbus aircraft would cripple production of their British-made wings and engines. Broker ABN Amro reinforced the mood, advising clients to fasten their seatbelts and prepare for a bumpy ride in the sector.

British Aerospace was firmly on the bears' radar screens. The shares plunged over 4 per cent to 477.5p, as the market fretted over BAE's role in the Airbus consortium. Rolls-Royce, down 5p to 235p, was also without parachute. Positive noises from HSEB were not enough to lift the turbo-engine maker.

Siebel and BTR, the two electronic engineers engaged to be married, were also affected. The sector malaise combined with doubts over the merger to leave Siebel grounded at 201p, down 9p, and BTR 225p lower at 113.75p. The defence en-



MARKET REPORT
FRANCESCO GUERRERA

gineers' selling spree extended to LucasVarity, down 4.5p to 203.5p. Smith Industries was the only one to take off, putting on 15p to 840p after the earnings-enhancing acquisition of the US electro-components group Enteco for \$7.7m.

Footsie kept a low profile after the previous day's disaster. The blue-chip index closed down 30.3 to 5507.2. After a directionless start, sentiment was hijacked by a large opening loss in Wall Street, and a fragile Footsie closed at the day's lowest point. Volume broke through

the 1 billion barrier for the second day running, helped by a number of tax-related deals and pre-Christmas book-squaring.

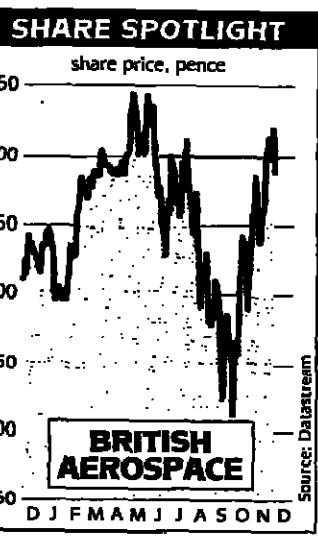
Scottish Power bucked the market trend to close up 23.5p at 657p, thanks to the return of recent rumours. Market insiders believe that the utility giant is preparing a spin-off of its telecoms arms or a long-awaited blockbuster buy in the US. It was denied the Footsie's top spot by Sema, up 20 to 470p, as the market corrected the previous day's rogue trade. Carlton tumbled in to a series of buy recommendations after Tuesday's results. The ITV company finished 14.5p higher at 492.5p.

The undercard was hit by a retailers' collapse and a series of profit warnings, which left the mid cap 17 lower at 4804.4 and the small cap 2.7 down at 2036.8.

Aradia finished a dishevelled 26.2 per cent lower at 212.5p, the biggest fall in the FTSE 250. Its

ASTEC, the electronic equipment maker set to fall to US rival Emerson, remained unmoved at 84.5p as two directors sold their stakes. Howard Lance, chief executive, sold 50,000 shares at the 85p offer price for £42,500. Neal Stewart, technical director, dumped 1.25 million shares for over £1m. Mr Stewart, one of Astec's founders, also cashed in options, netting over £700,000. Emerson yesterday increased its Astec holding to 87.3 per cent.

former parent Debenhams followed suit with a 21.5p fall to 360p. Reading the list of the other failures was like taking a stroll down the high street. Sears, the Miss Selfridge chain, was down 7.5 per cent to 196.5p. Next slumped 31p to



BRITISH AEROSPACE
D J F M A M J J A S O N D

444p. Marks & Spencer fell 15.25p to 400p. GUS, the owner of Argos, did even worse as dealers panicked over today's results. The shares crumbled 8.3 per cent to a 52-week low of 574p. Allied Carpets rolled out its own disastrous trading update and slid 2p to 47.5p.

Boots fell 34p to 940p. Market insiders whisper that the chemist is preparing a very downbeat trading

update. Sainsbury, down 19p to 478p, added a bit of food flavour to the retailers' debacle.

Dixons' star shone alone in the sector's night. The electrical chain touched an all-time high of 758p, up

18p after an investors' presentation at Goldman Sachs. The bank's clients were impressed with Dixons' burgeoning Internet service.

Marley was the cheer of the mid cap. The building materials group, rose 16.5 per cent to 123p after find-

ing a Belgian white knight to save it from the attack by its smaller rival John Mansfield. Bex, a privately owned company, is bidding 125p a share in cash, well above Mansfield's 97.4p bid.

Rugby Group, another suffering materials-maker, built a rally on its recent underperformance and ended 5.5p higher at 37p. Tarmac added to the construction rally with a 3.5p rise to 112.5p. A deal with rival Aggregate Industries is said to be close.

Sentry Farming was the market's worst performer. The agricultural group dropped 32 per cent to 43.5p after warning of a substantial trading loss for the year. The BSE scare, sterling strength and a slump in crop values did the damage.

Hornby, the maker of toy railways, hit the buffers, as it cautioned that tough trading would derail profits. The shares shed 37.5p to 147.5p.

Cortec, the biotech group, rebounded 3.5p to 15p following Tuesday's product-delay warning.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.12 billion
SEAQ TRADES: 63,252
GILT INDEX: 114.24 -0.03

Investment: Consolidation may be the only option for the regional brewing sector

Flat prospects at Greene King

THE REGIONAL BREWING sector, for so long the dullard of the pub and brewing industry, is suddenly starting to look interesting. With Wolverhampton & Dudley embroiled in a hostile bid for rival Marston's, and Greene King tipped as a possible "White Knight" bidder, the long-awaited consolidation of the market could finally be under way.

Certainly a glance at Greene King's half-year figures yesterday suggest action is necessary. Trading profits were up just 5 per cent to £27m on sales up 2 per cent to £134.5m. Like-for-like sales in its managed pub estate are running 3 to 4 per cent lower than last year and trading is said to be "patchy and unpredictable" in the face of weakening consumer demand. "It seems that consumers do have the money, but are frightened to spend it," said Greene King's chief executive Tim Bridge, adding that food sales are slightly weaker than drink.

All this has contributed to the shares underperforming the market by 23 per cent over the past 12 months. They have fallen from over 750p in the spring to 537.5p, down a further 1.5p yesterday.

Like other regional brewers Greene King's problem is that it is caught between the powerful big brewers, such as Bass and Scottish

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

& Newcastle, on the one hand and the new, nimble pub companies on the other. The regional brewers cannot match the marketing spend of the big boys while the new pub companies, such as Regent Inns and JD Wetherspoon, are nibbling away at their margins.

This has led to analysts and investors shunning brewers valued at less than £500m, leaving the shares trading on lowly ratings. As one sector-watcher put it yesterday: "Greene King is a small, low-growth business operating in a mature sector. It is just a case of trying to make the best of what it's got."

To be fair to the company, it has been trying to do just that. Its decision to pull out of larger production last year now looks wise as Greene King could not possibly match the marketing muscle behind top brands such as Carling Black Label and Stella Artois. It has also jettisoned its Irish ale, Wexford Cream, after sales started to fall sharply.

Its beer volumes are outperforming the market and its main ales, Greene King IPA and the stronger Abbot ale, increased sales by 2 per cent in a cash conditioned market 10 per cent down.

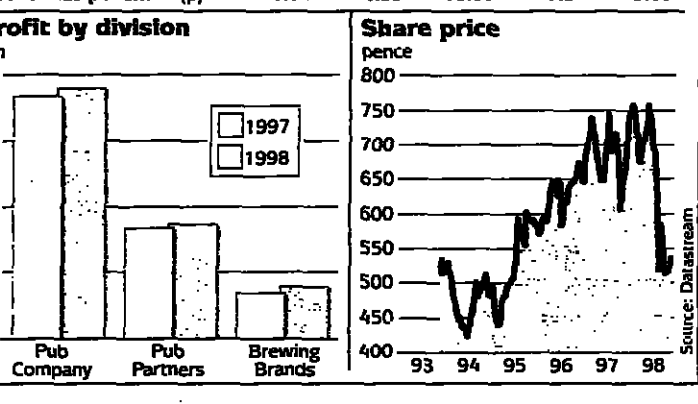


Tim Bridge: 'Consumers are frightened to spend'

In managed pubs the group is concentrating on acquiring and developing community pubs to the Hungry Horse brand, which offers lower-priced food. So far there are 90 Hungry Horse pubs with a further eight sites secured for the second half. However, there have been some concerns that a large invest-

ment bill for refurbishment is looming.

In the tenanted estate, which was boosted by the purchase of 43 Beards of Sussex pubs this year, profits were up 4 per cent although the benefits of an investment programme will only be felt in the second half.



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M&G profits up but future looks uncertain

FUND MANAGEMENT group M&G yesterday reported a 13 per cent jump in profits in the year to September but warned that volatile markets would breed caution among investors in the coming year.

Profits rose from £67.4m to £76.1m as rising markets yielded high annual management fees in the first nine months of the financial year. Dividends rose 15 per cent to 46p.

The profit jump came in spite of a per cent fall in the value of its funds under management, to £16.8bn. Since the end of September, funds have recovered to £18.1bn.

M&G has been the continual target of takeover rumours following a disastrous investment performance three years ago which has caused investors to withdraw funds from the group.

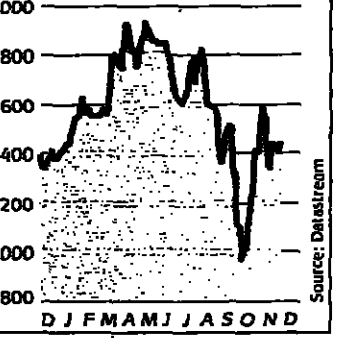
Michael McLintock, chief executive, declined to comment on whether he had received any takeover approaches, adding: "We think independent companies are more flexible and quicker on their feet."

"We see good long-term prospects in the savings market and we are determined to enhance our position as one of the country's leading independent savings providers."

M&G also suffers from its former success as the world's oldest unit trust company. Last year, a net £111m was withdrawn as customers died and relatives cashed in their inheritance.

One analyst said: "M&G is a company that is having to run faster and faster simply to stand still at the moment. Basically, they have done well to break even."

Mr McLintock, one of the younger members of the family that founded KPMG, has succeeded in boosting sales of investment products in an effort to turn the outflow of funds to an inflow by the end of next year.



share price, pence
D J F M A M J J A S O N D

After hiring Vivian Bazelgette, a well-known City fund manager, M&G has moved away from its traditional strategy of picking high-yielding, small-cap stocks. New launches have included a high-yield corporate bond fund and an index tracker.

Like other fund managers, the company is now pinning its hopes for the year ahead on a lucrative "closing down sale" for PEPs, ahead of the switch to Individual Savings Accounts next April.

Executives believe M&G is in a good position to attract investors who have become nervous about equities, having established itself as a manager of fixed-interest funds.

However, industry observers are increasingly apprehensive about wider prospects for the sector because of the link between managers' fees and the value of the funds they run.

Because of high fixed costs, the link effectively means that fund managers are a geared play on the performance of the stock market, doing very well during bull runs but very poorly in bear markets.

Many analysts are predicting that M&G's profits will be flat. At the most they predict a slight rise over the next year if markets deliver growth of 5 per cent. Forecasts range between £75m and £80m for the year to September 1999.

Anthony Cummins, an analyst with Schroders, the investment bank, said: "They are a group that is on the road to recovery but are not yet fully recovered."

"For a group in that position to achieve 15 per cent dividend growth is more than a little improvement. And they will do a little better when the fruits of the recent restructuring are evident."

This time ISA's chief executive lasted six weeks

BEING chief executive of ISA International, the toner cartridge to ink jet computer products distributor, is getting as secure an occupation as England Test batsman. Yesterday John Parkinson stepped aside after just six weeks in the job, having succeeded Richard Lindsey, who lasted 14 months.

Before that Peter Hildrew also lasted 14 months at the helm, before resigning in July last year. At the time, the company blamed his departure on personal reasons, saying Mr Hildrew felt that his decision to marry someone who lived in the south of England was not compatible with his working for a Bradford-based company.

Yesterday the new chief executive and chairman of ISA, David Heap, said everything would be different from now on. Mr Heap founded ISA in 1976 and then sold out in the 1980s in order to launch other companies in the US, only to buy back a fifth of ISA four months ago.

Despite yesterday's profits warning from ISA, Mr Heap is confident he can deal with the margin pressures which have hit the company. And Bradford will no longer be an issue, he added. "I live primarily in London."

VIRGIN DIRECT'S Christmas drinks party at the Sanctuary in Covent Garden, London, on Tuesday night was a lively affair. While Richard Branson was off ballooning in Morocco, Rowan Gormley, managing director of Virgin Direct, played host to the great and the good of the financial services industry.

Only one problem surfaced during the proceedings - large numbers of men wandering around the building desperately looking for the gents. The Sanctuary is of course a women-only health club, so the loo had to become unisex for the evening.

The club's swimming pool was once used as a set for one of Joan Collins' more risqué films. Mr Gormley was thrown into the very same pool, suit and all. No doubt Mr Branson would have approved.

SIR TERENCE CONRAN's latest restaurant venture, the Coq d'Argent, seems something of a hit. Located on the roof of a new building just opposite the Bank of England, the eatery yesterday lunchtime attracted (at different tables) Nicola Foulston, head of Brands Hatch and former Businesswoman of the Year, Mark Boleat, outgoing director-general of the Association of British Insurers, and Sir Terence himself, sporting his trademark blue shirt.

THE MAN who led the computerisation of air traffic control at Heathrow Airport has just been appointed secretary of the London Society of Chartered Accountants. Ian Strange, 51, returns to the job from Russia, where he was formerly human resources director for Arthur Andersen, and before that Coopers & Lybrand (Now Price-waterhouseCoopers).

After reading maths at Reading University, Mr Strange started his career with Marconi, and was team leader for the automation of Heathrow's air traffic control. It was only then that he saw the light and became an accountant.

France	6.4292	6.3875	5.0825	5.0742	5.0613	3.0407
Finland	8.4350	8.2999	5.5075	5.5978	5.5843	3.3548
Germany	9.3236	9.2954	5.6075	5.5978	5.5843	3.3548
Greece	2.7800	2.7775	2.7812	2.8254	2.8537	1.6824
Hong Kong	46.71	46.6854	47.874	47.862	47.850	1.6824
India	12.862	12.862	7.2842	7.2842	7.2842	1.6824
Indonesia	1.1180	1.1151	1.1097	1.1097	1.1097	1.6824
Italy	2749.2	2749.2	2749.2	2749.2	2749.2	1.6824
Japan	190.2	190.2	190.2	190.2	190.2	1.6824
Malaysia	6.1956	6.0453	6.6449	3.7988	3.8228	4.0098
Mexico	16.571	3.1225	3.1067	1.8832	1.8775	1.7127
Netherlands	13.151	13.152	3.1454	0.5273	0.5273	1.7127
Norway	3.3541	3.3572	12.401	7.4250	7.4250	1.7127
New Zealand	12.356	12.356	12.356	12.356	12.356	1.7127
Portugal	285.24	284.44	6.2343	6.2348	3.7508	1.7127
Saudi Arabia	2.7375	2.7375	2.7080	1.6460	1.6460	1.7127
Singapore	9.4017	9.4017	9.3951	5.6525	5.6525	1.7127
South Africa	2.3641	2.3641	1.8158	1.8158	1.8158	1.7127
Spain	13.156	13.156	13.0610	8.0469	8.0469	1.7127
Sweden	2.2769	2.2666	2.2484	3.3650	3.3644	1.3567
Switzerland	1.6632			1.0000		

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6632	1.0000	Oman	0.6402	0.3850
Australia	2.6414	1.2005	Pakistan	82.908	49.850
Belgium	3.5600	8.2780	Philippines	64.780	38.550
Canada	1.5354	30.285	Poland	5.7858	3.4775
Czech Rep	50.885	3.4267	Qatar	6.0530	3.6393
Denmark	5.7024	3.4267	Russia	3077.6	18505.0
Egypt	389.18	2940.0	South Korea	2059.0	38.899
France	6.4292	218.91	Taiwan	59.873	32.408
Germany	9.3236	42.560	Thailand	59.873	36.000
Greece	2.7800	72.75	Turkey	30245.0	50.320
Hong Kong	46.71	0.5051	UAE	0.3037	30.245
India	12.862	85.000	UK	6.1096	3.6735
Indonesia	1.1180				
Italy	2749.2				
Japan	190.2				
Malaysia	6.1956				
Mexico	16.571				
Netherlands	13.151				
Norway	3.3541				
New Zealand	12.356				
Portugal	285.24				
Saudi Arabia	2.7375				
Singapore	9.4017				
South Africa	2.3641				
Spain	13.156				
Sweden	2.2769				
Switzerland	1.6632				

BOND YIELDS										
Country	3 mth	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr	30 yr	10 yr	30 yr	
Australia	4.45	-0.22	4.42	-0.12	4.47	-0.09	4.51	-0.12	4.45	-0.16
Belgium	3.56	0.00	3.41	0.00	3.33	0.01	3.61	0.01	4.17	-0.03
Canada	4.70	-0.03	4.80	-0.10	4.68	0.03	4.70	-0.14	4.88	-0.14
Denmark	3.80	0.01	3.50	0.00	3.38	0.09	3.67	-0.03	4.04	-0.03
France	0.00	0.00	3.25	0.00	3.31	-0.02	3.54	-0.03	4.04	-0.03
Germany	3.64	0.00	3.46	0.00	3.25	-0.01	3.48	-0.03	3.99	-0.03
Italy	3.63	0.00	3.45	0.01	3.44	-0.01	3.61	0.00	4.11	0.00
Japan	0.13	0.00	0.22	0.01	0.37	0.03	0.78	0.04	1.19	0.10
Netherlands	3.46	-0.01	3.48	0.00	3.38	-0.01	3.59	0.00	4.02	-0.06
Portugal	3.20	0.00	3.22	0.00	3.37	0.01	3.60	0.00	4.21	-0.07
Spain	3.64	0.00	3.63	-0.01	3.66	-0.03	3.83	-0.03	4.27	-0.04
Sweden	1.68	-0.07	1.75	0.00	1.53	-0.01	1.85	-0.01	2.36	0.00
Switzerland	6.30	0.00	6.32	0.04	6.19	-0.04	6.78	-0.03	6.83	-0.06
UK	4.35	-	4.19	-	4.33	-	4.31	-	4.38	-

MONEY MARKET RATES									
Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year
Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer
6.53	6.43	6.40	6.30						

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION											
Series	Dec	Call	Imp Vol	Put	Imp Vol	Jan	Call	Put	Jan	Call	Put
5450	133	32	158	32	285	238	362	315	1	-1	-1
5500	108	32	185	30	215	270	332	336	513	600	513
5550	63	32	210	27	240	186	302	357	-1	-1	-1
5600	72	30	250	31	182	315	275	381	455	532	455

ENERGY AT 5:30PM									
Brent Crude (\$/barrel)	Gas oil (\$/barrel)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	Spot Crude (\$/barrel)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)
101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30
101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30
101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30
101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30
101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30
101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30
101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30
101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30
101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30	101.10	44.30

GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES AT 5:30PM									
Index	7500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
Index	7500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
Agricultural	7500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
Energy	7500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
Metals	7500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
Soft Commodities	7500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
WTI Crude	7500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
WTI Crude	7500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
WTI Crude	7500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
WTI Crude	7500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
WTI Crude	7500	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500

PRECIOUS METALS									
pm Au/\$ per oz	pm Ag/\$ per oz	pm Pt/\$ per oz	pm Rh/\$ per oz	pm Pd/\$ per oz	Colins (\$)	Year's chg			
1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00			
1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00			
1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00			
1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00			
1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00			
1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00			
1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00			
1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00			
1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00	15.00	1280.00			

AGRICULTURAL AT 5:30PM									
Cocoa	Coffee	Barley	Potatoes	Lge Potatoes	Wheat	Wheat	Wheat	Wheat	Wheat
LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne
Dec98 939.00	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0
Mar99 983.00	Nov98 78.30	Mar99 230.00	Apr99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00
May99 579.00	Jan99 78.75	Mar99 314.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00
10000 579.00	Mar99 78.75	Mar99 314.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00	May99 579.00
White Sugar	Wheat	Corn	Soya Beans	Soya Beans	Soya Beans	Soya Beans	Soya Beans	Soya Beans	Soya Beans
LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne
Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0
Dec98 243.20	Nov98 50.00	Dec98 217.25	Nov98 81.10	Jan99 81.10	Jan99 81.10	Jan99 81.10	Jan99 81.10	Jan99 81.10	Jan99 81.10
Dec98 244.00	Jan99 78.85	Mar99 227.50	Jan99 81.10	Jan99 81.10	Jan99 81.10	Jan99 81.10	Jan99 81.10	Jan99 81.10	Jan99 81.10
May99 243.00	Mar99 87.00	May99 235.25	Mar99 81.10	Mar99 81.10	Mar99 81.10	Mar99 81.10	Mar99 81.10	Mar99 81.10	Mar99 81.10

OTHER SPOTS AT 5:30PM									
Feb	Live Cattle	CHS \$/lb	52.08	May	White Malt	ISAF \$/100 mt	608.00		
Feb	Port Barrels	CHS \$/lb	45.30	Dec	White Malt	ISAF \$/100 mt	608.00		
Jan	Orange Juice	CHS \$/lb	116.60	Mar	White Malt	ISAF \$/100 mt	608.00		
Jul	Milk	CHS \$/lb	116.60	Dec	White Malt	ISAF \$/100 mt	608.00		
Mar	Cats	CHS \$/lb	116.60	Jan	White Malt	ISAF \$/100 mt	608.00		
Mar	Flax	CHS \$/lb	116.60	May	White Malt	ISAF \$/100 mt	608.00		

www.bloomberg.com/uk	Source: Bloomberg
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SPORT

A bitter pill the English refuse to swallow

FROM TIME to time, and this seems to be as good a time as any, I dwell on difficulties arising from the arrogant presumption that England should be second to none in sporting stature.

A Celt has to tread carefully here, but nothing appears to die harder among English people, and some in my trade especially, than the notion that failures in sport are proof of faltering character rather than the inevitable outcome of global improvement.

Nobody with half an eye on present standings in cricket would have been tempted to risk some of the mortgage money on England's chances of regaining the Ashes. Saved by the weather in Brisbane, outplayed in Perth where they went



KEN JONES

down by seven wickets, England are running true to form. Why then were the travelling supporters interviewed on televi-

sion the other night so indignant? Not unnaturally, they give weight to a residual sense of superiority that goes back to when England, or should I say the United Kingdom, was giving most games to the world and making mincemeat out of the opposition. This is not entirely the fault of an older generation.

In debate at Exeter University just about a year ago, I put forward confidently the motion that we - the Celtic nations came into this - have become a second class sporting nation. Mainly on historical grounds it was heavily defeated.

"When you think of all the great British figures in the annals of sport there is no reason why we should think ourselves inferior," one of the students said.

If, admittedly, a powerful argument - not so much what a nation achieves but what it brings to the sporting fabric - it did not account for exaggerated responses to success and failure.

Anybody who follows sport in newspapers and across the airwaves will be aware of how quick some critics are to advance the view that defeats insult England's sporting heritage. They do no such thing. The truth, and a hard truth it is for many to swallow, is that for such a small and fragmented nation Britain does remarkably well on the playing fields.

A friend who writes about track and field warns of the backlash British athletics will suffer from a comparative downturn in next

year's World Championships. "You don't have to know much about the sport to realise that we won't win as many gold medals as we did in this year's European Championships but that won't be taken into account," he said. "It will be back unfairly to the old question: what's wrong with British athletics?"

Like most other critics and on-lookers, I have not myself questioned hundreds of witnesses or studied the accounts of casual bettors but it is probably safe to assume that a great deal of money was put down on England before they set out on last summer's World Cup adventure.

The impression that has since grown up, amplified this week by an ITV documentary about the match

against Argentina - watched by a record 27m viewers - is that England would probably have won the World Cup but for the dismissal of David Beckham and other imagined refereeing errors.

Nothing is held out here against anyone who believes this but it does not accommodate the facts of England's overall record in World Cup competition. There has been just one victory, in 1966, when England had the advantage of playing all their matches at Wembley. And there has only been one other appearance (1990) in the semi-finals.

When England defeated Australia in a Test match at Edgbaston two summers ago, it was stated by Lord MacLaurin that they had no need to fear anyone. England lost

the series. A more circumspect view was taken generally when England overcame South Africa last summer but it did not prevent the misplaced optimism that accompanied England to Australia.

While professing no great expertise, my view of England's performances so far in Australia is that their opponents are simply better at batting, bowling and catching.

If this suggests a lot of room for improvement and justifies a shake-up in the administration and structure of English cricket there is no shame in it.

It will surely be a great day if you ask an Englishman what the word sport brings to mind, and he replies: "Plays hell with reality."

Jones on journey out of the dark

It has been a hard 12 months for the Wales captain left paralysed by an 'innocuous accident'. By Tim Glover

WITH THE aid of crutches, Gwyn Jones walked into the trophy room at Cardiff Rugby Club yesterday. "If you'd told me 12 months ago that I'd be sitting here talking about my future I wouldn't have believed it," the former Wales captain said.

It was on the adjoining pitch on 13 December last year that Jones, playing for Cardiff against Swansea, suffered a serious spinal injury, in the 13th minute, from which it was thought he might never recover. For a time he was a quadriplegic. After 12 months of treatment and rehabilitation, Jones, a medical student whose parents are both doctors, will attempt to resuscitate his career in medicine.

"There aren't many things I can't do now, they just take a bit longer than before," he said. "I'm almost walking independently. I'm OK for a couple of steps and then I might lose balance. There's a fine line between walking and grabbing hold of something. It's a question of rhythm and continuity."

It was initially feared that Jones had fractured his spine and would never walk again but the cord was compressed and he had an operation to relieve the pressure. During his rehabilitation he met people who are suffering from total paralysis. "One chap told me I was lucky. He had completely severed his spinal cord. I knew what he meant although I didn't feel particularly lucky. I'm pleased with how far I've come because back in those dark days when I couldn't move at all there was a chance I might remain like that for the rest of my life. It was a frightening experience. When I asked them if I'd ever be able to walk they said they didn't know. I'd just have to wait. Now they're saying I should be able to run. There are still a lot of goals to be achieved. To resume my medical career I need to improve

my exam skills and the dexterity in hands and arms especially if I'm going to be putting needles into someone else."

Jones describes the incident which left him motionless on the Arms Park as an "innocuous accident".

"A lot of people still play the video of the incident but it was an accident which could have happened to anyone. It was in open play. I was standing over the ball trying to secure possession and I was hit from both sides. My neck was caught in an awkward position and I found myself lying on the floor. The greatest feeling that I had at that time was not knowing where my body was. That was the first sign that something had gone badly wrong because I couldn't work out where my arms and legs had gone. Then I managed a quick look to where I thought my arms and legs were but they weren't there."

Two weeks before the injury, Jones, a 25-year-old flanker of speed and skill, had captained Wales against the All Blacks at Wembley. It was his 13th cap in a career that had already been affected by a series of injuries. Like Dr J P R Williams, the legendary full-back, he had a fearless approach to the game. Colleagues at the Welsh National School of Medicine were accustomed to seeing Jones as a patient. He had two shoulder operations, a back injury and an ankle injury. He had taken a two-year sabbatical from his studies to play as a full-time professional.

"There are probably more injuries now because everybody's so much bigger and it's a far more physical game. There's more emphasis on the big hits. I used protective padding but I didn't find it much use. Whether rule changes would make it safer is difficult to say. People know the risks."



Gwyn Jones, the former Cardiff player and Wales captain, returns to the scene of the accident that left him temporarily paralysed. He suffered a serious spinal injury in a tackle during his club's match against Swansea last December and had to be carefully carried from the pitch (below) Robert Hallam and PA

Jones' recovery began at the neurological ward at the University of Wales Hospital and following surgery he was moved to the high dependency unit. "It was very difficult to cope with that at first. Lying on my back with my head strapped to the bed staring at the ceiling is obviously not easy. To begin with I was unsure what I had done although when the doctors told me I hadn't broken my neck it was a bit confused. Gradually I realised what was wrong and started to see

spinal injury and I had never heard of someone who was totally paralysed one minute and began to improve the next. I met people who had suffered similar injuries and I was determined that however hard it was I would not give in. I met a couple of people who had done better than me at this stage of their recovery and some who had recovered well after failing to make that much progress in the early days. That being the case, I think the future looks quite promising."

'Everybody's so much bigger and it's a far more physical game. There's more emphasis on big hits'

definite signs of recovery. For several days I couldn't move at all and I was even having trouble breathing. There was just not enough power to allow me to breathe as I should. After about a week I started getting some movement in my left leg and then things started to happen.

"What it taught me was how little I know. I knew it was quite rare for someone to get an incomplete

Jones is aware the whole healing process has been aided and abetted by his family, the medical staff of the various institutions he has attended and the stream of letters and messages of support from all over the world.

He has just begun a stint as a rugby analyst for the Welsh television channel, S4C, and on Saturday will be at the Swansea-Cardiff match, the first time the clubs have

met since the fateful fixture on 13 December.

"I was actually watching games as soon as I was out of the high dependency unit and back on the ward. We would have my mother holding the television aerial out of the window so we could watch the pictures. There was never any question of me not watching or following rugby. It was difficult after what had happened but I have always played the game and many of my friends are still playing. Initially when teammates came to see me I thought differently about the position. I looked at them and couldn't really understand why they should want to play on having seen what can happen to somebody. Then I thought if it was me standing there with someone else in the bed I'm sure I would have carried on playing."

Nevertheless, Jones, who seemed destined for an international career when he led Wales to victory over Scotland in 1988 at under-15 level, will never play again.

"Even if I make a full recovery I don't really want to be out there playing after the severity of what happened to me."



Extraordinary tales of Lions, Cougars and rugby mascots

NOT A year to make the rugby league bookshelves groan under the strain, but there has been one major, weighty tome and several books that are, for one reason or another, out of the ordinary.

The most significant new addition is Rugby's Great Split: Class, Culture and the Origins of Rugby League Football by Tony Collins (Frank Vass, £20). It is the most detailed and perceptive account yet of the events around the great schism.

This might be the era when we are all supposed to be mates together - at least when it suits the rugby union authorities - but this book is a timely reminder that rugby league really is radically different in its underlying attitudes as well as in having a cou-

ple of players less. For those of us of a certain age, Malcolm Reilly embodies those differences better than most. Reilly, by Malcolm Reilly with Ian Heads (Ironbark, unpriced), has so far only been published in Australia. In the meantime, Open Rugby magazine is trying to get some copies.

It is worth getting, because Reilly genuinely occupies a unique position in the game, as the only Pom to cut the mustard in Australia as both player and coach.

The single-mindedness that made that possible is evident in this well above average autobiography, especially in his descriptions of "getting his retaliation in first" as a marked man at Manly in the 1970s. He is strong, too, on the subject of

his relationships and subsequent fall-outs with Maurice Lindsay and Ellery Hanley.

Rugby Rebel by Alan Tate with Bill Lothian (Mainstream, £14.99) is representative of a genre that has only recently become possible - the memoir of a union player turned to league and back to union.

The mystery of Tate's latter years is how a player stagnating in Leeds' reserves could emerge as one of the heroes of the Lions in South Africa.

Tate's account of his relationship with the then Leeds coach, Dean Bell, goes some way towards answering that question. The only person he is less complimentary about is his Lions room-mate, Jeremy Guscott. "Looking back," he

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Today: Rugby League

writes, "I really can't believe that I made such an effort to get outside with Mr High and Mighty Guscott. Maybe if he'd slogged it out at Featherstone on a wet Tuesday in December he might have been entitled to that sort of respect from me. All he really seemed concerned about... was whether I farted in my sleep."

The Memoirs and Sporting

Life of Tom Mitchell (Echotime Inc, £16) is the year's most engaging autobiography. The grand old eccentric of rugby league, who died in September, did not just have one good life story to tell; he had several and wove them into a quite extraordinary, if sometimes rambling, piece of work.

Leeds Rugby League Club compiled by Phil Caplan and Les Hoole (Tempus, £9.99) is one of the images of England series and a visually rewarding collection. It is worth getting down from the shelf for its cover, a quite wonderful sepia team group of the Leeds and New Zealand players who met at Headingley in 1907.

If that is basically an exercise in nostalgia, then Darling to Dream by

Brian Lund (Reflections of a Bygone Age, £8.95) is, despite the name of its publishers, an exploration of recent history, of fresh wounds and wrongs.

It is an account of the rise of the Keighley Cougars, a phenomenon not just of rugby league but of British sport in the way they went from moribund to vibrant in the early 90s.

Keighley were ultimately denied their place at the game's top table by the arrival of Super League. There is no attempt here to disguise the bitterness - nor should there be.

Their amateur neighbours, Keighley Albion, are the subject of Seasons to Remember by Don and Dave Kirkley (Empire Publications, £8.95). No amateur rugby league club has had its history chronicled like

this, although my recollections of the early 80s are that playing them - or any other side in Keighley - was a more frightening experience than emerges here.

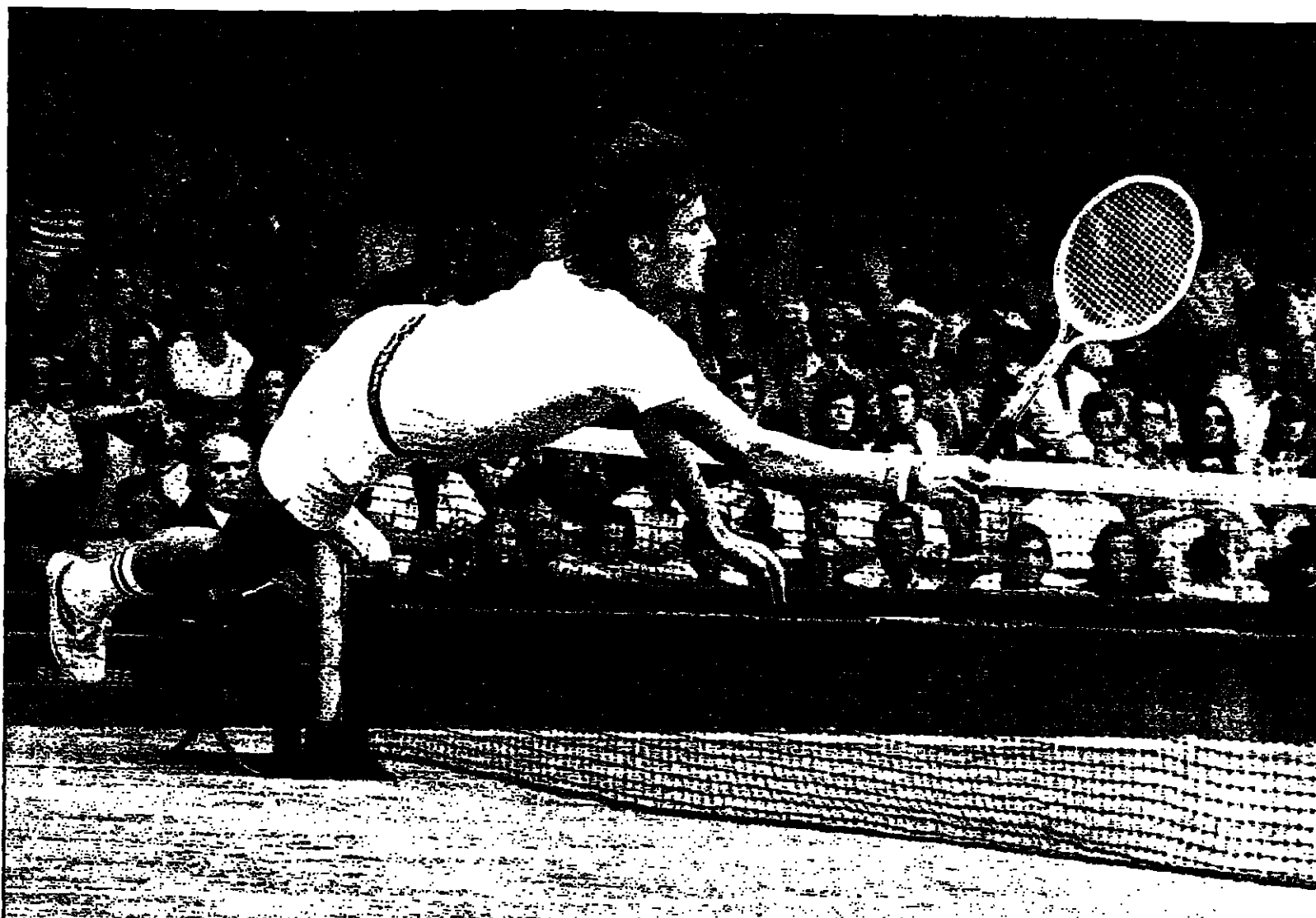
Over the hill and in the big city, the Bradford Bulls have been innovators in many spheres of the game. Predictable, then, that they should be the first to publish a children's book based on their mascot - Bullman and the Mystery of the Missing Boots (Bradford Bulls, £4.99).

I look forward to the sequels, Bullman and the Mystery of the Missing Super League Points and, just possibly, Bullman and the Mystery of the Missing Spectators.

Dave Hadfield



Nicola Pietrangeli (left) and Adriano Panatta, members of Italy's victorious Davis Cup team in 1976 when sections of the government, media and the players' own federation opposed the visit to Santiago



Pietrangeli and the dictators

The prospect of sending a Davis Cup team to Pinochet's Chile 22 years ago divided Italy - but their captain's battle to play was rewarded with victory. By John Roberts in Milan

ITALY WILL contest their seventh Davis Cup final tomorrow, the first one at home, when Sweden visit the Fila Forum here. Italy's only win was in Chile in 1976, a victory threatened by the Pinochet regime. Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy's most prolific Davis Cup competitor, was the team's captain 22 years ago. Pietrangeli's biggest struggle was against sections of the Italian government and his own tennis federation. Sports writers, political commentators and newspaper proprietors were also divided on whether Italy should send a team to Santiago. Gianni Clerici, of *La Repubblica*, was then writing for *Il Giorno*. "I had to resign from my paper, because my paper was running the opinion that we should not go," Clerici recalled. "The tennis federation had been occupied by very left

young guys who threw things from the windows. New words were adapted to Domenico Modugno's song 'Volare', and I remember the leftist kids chanting, 'Non si giocano vole, con il boia Pinochet' [one has not to play volleyball against hangman Pinochet]."

Rino Tommasi, of *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, remembers hearing chanting in front of the parliament building. "We are not to play, even a set against Pinochet," and another one went, "We are not sending our tennis, to play against fascist". The chanting was organised by the Communists. "Socialists, too," Clerici reminded him. "Whatever," Tommasi said. "Whoever, from the centre on

the left to me are Communist. Gianni doesn't agree, but that's my opinion. My political position is extremely on the right."

Tommasi "went to war" with *Gazzetta*. "I was for going [to Chile], my paper was against it. One day I read the front page headline, 'Why Not? The article was not signed, but I knew the journalist who wrote it and I knew the editor agreed with the article. It explained the main reason we shouldn't go to play in a country run by Pinochet, blah, blah, blah."

"I knew it was a unique opportunity to win the Davis Cup. Chile had the weakest team who ever reached the final. But that was not the only reason I was for going. It was because we had an economic

relationship with Chile. Romania had an economic relationship with Chile, Russia had an economic relationship with Chile. Why shouldn't we go?"

Ubaldo Scanagatta, of *La Nazione*, was encouraged by his editor to present a balanced view. "I was asked to write the pros and cons," Scanagatta said. "Our readers were more central and right than left, so we were in favour of playing the match. I thought if we didn't go it would be even better for Pinochet, because he would have made a big promotion in his country about being champions of the world. But if it hadn't been for Pietrangeli, I don't think Italy would have gone."

The captain fought for his

team's right to play where industrialists did business. "Pietrangeli was very brave to speak in public," Clerici said. "He said it was right to go to Chile, and that there were plenty of dictators on earth. He received menaces, anonymous letters and phone calls."

"The Russians had withdrawn from the semi-finals because they didn't want to play with Chile, so Chile went to the final easily. It was a tough problem. It was sorted out in the end. The centre party, the Christian Democrat Government, was formed, and we were able to go. Even I was reinstated [by *Il Giorno*] and was allowed to write what I wanted in my own column."

Italy won, 4-1, with Adriano

Panatta winning his two singles matches and partnering Paolo Bertolucci to win the doubles.

"Pinochet didn't come to the tennis," Clerici said. "They had four generals who were running the country. One of them, General Leigh, who was in charge of the air force, went to the game. I remember that a helicopter, or a small plane, went very close to the stadium, and so the crowd got an occasion to whistle at General Leigh because the aircraft disturbed the players."

"The majority of people in Chile seemed to be for Pinochet, which for us was very surprising, because our press had spoken about a total dictatorship. Of course, we knew

what he had done. He had killed people. But the situation was very tough."

"They still had a curfew at night, but we spoke with a few of the people, and the impression was that the situation went so bad with [overthrown prime minister Salvador] Allende that the majority at that time - it changed, of course - was for Pinochet."

Tommasi remembers the sportsmanship of the Chilean spectators. "It was one of the finest receptions we ever had from the crowd," he said. "South Americans don't have the best reputation - probably, after the Italians, they have the worst - but we were very well treated. And as soon as we won the doubles, because we won two singles on the first day, the crowd asked our players to do a lap of honour. The atmosphere was completely fair."

Eagles' dream ended by Young

ICE HOCKEY
BY IAN PARKES

AYR SCOTTISH EAGLES suffered another heartbreaking night in Europe on Tuesday when just 53 seconds away from making British ice hockey history, Eagles needed one point from their final divisional game in Mannheim to reach the second round of the European Hockey League but were denied by a last-gasp winner from the Germans.

Jim Lynch's side suffered an agonising 6-5 defeat having led three times in a pulsating game in which there was never more than one goal between the teams. David St Pierre gave the reigning grand slam champions the lead in the first period, by the end of which the scores were tied as Christian Lukes levelled.

John Parco restored Ayr's advantage early in the second, but Mannheim were ahead going into the final period with goals from Paul Stanton and Jason Young on the powerplay.

The last 20 minutes proved a rollercoaster for Ayr as they pulled level through Matt Hoffmann at 43:28, only to go behind again just over two minutes later when Pavel Gross found the net.

But Eagles turned the tie around when Mark Montanari and St Pierre netted within the space of 47 seconds, before foul trouble led to Dave Tomlinson capitalising on the powerplay to make the score 5-5 with seven minutes remaining. Just when it looked as if the Eagles would hold out as they defended desperately in the dying stages, Young sent Mannheim through to join the Russian champions, Kazan, who had earlier beaten Czech side Litvinov 3-2.

In the Sekonda Superleague, Cardiff Devils closed the gap on leaders Manchester Storm to four points - and with two games in hand - producing a 3-2 win at London Knights.

A Doug McEwen strike sandwiched a brace from Mario Simeone as Cardiff came from behind to set up a vital clash against Storm at the MEN Arena tonight.

Goodway laments Britain split

THE NATIONAL coach, Andy Goodway, believes the chances of a home success at the World Cup in 2000 have been markedly diminished by the decision - announced at the end of a two-day meeting of the International Federation in Sydney - not to tackle the might of Australia and New Zealand with a full Great Britain team.

The Rugby Football League has opted to field separate teams representing England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales to gain £750,000 of Sports Council funding as part of the World Class Performance Programme.

Gary Connolly and Terry O'Connor, for example, have committed themselves to Ireland and, with Dale Laughton

opting for Scotland and Iestyn Harris and Keiron Cunningham regulars for Wales, Goodway's squad for the recent Test series with New Zealand will be decimated. "It was tough enough before, now it's going to make it even harder," Goodway said. "But they've got to go with separate countries to get the funding and that's more important than my ego."

There are to be 16 teams in Britain in 2000, making it the game's biggest-ever tournament. The meeting in Sydney has cleared the way for Russia to take part, with the other

place to be decided between nations such as Canada, the United States, Morocco, Moldova, Japan, Lebanon and Italy. A pre-World Cup competition could determine the qualifier.

Already included in the draw, to be held next February, are South Africa, where the revival of the World Nines will be held that month. The decision to stage the tournament in Johannesburg for the next three years will be a boost to the game in South Africa, which is also to host an extra Test match next November.

Great Britain and New Zealand are to meet at Ellis Park on 12 November, a week after the Tri-Nations final in Sydney. The meeting has also

approved a number of rule changes that will apply in Britain next season.

The experiment of having the scoring side restarting play with the kick-off is to end and the extra tackle when a team fields a kick will no longer apply, but the "40/20" rule, in use in Australia, is to be extended to Britain. It rewards a long-range, touch-finding kick by giving the attacking side the head and feed at the scrum.

In international matches, coaches will be able to make an unlimited number of changes, although there can still only be four named substitutes. In domestic matches in Britain, the existing limit of six changes will continue to apply.

Rain delays leave Westwood on hold

LEE WESTWOOD will lead the way when the Million Dollar Challenge is launched at the Gary Player Country Club, Sun City, South Africa, today - if the torrential rain relents. The Lincolnshire player, who, together with Colin Montgomerie, forms a two-man British representation in the 12-player event, will partner Bernhard Langer in the opening pair.

But three inches of rain fell in 14 hours yesterday, and the tournament chairman, Tobin Prior, said: "It doesn't look good for tomorrow, but we'll try to get in at least nine holes if we can. We only have six two-balls to get off, so we have the advantage there."

Tiger Woods, making his first appearance in the event, has been drawn with Jesper Parnevik. Ernie Els plays with David Duval and the other pairings are Jim Furyk and Justin Leonard, Montgomerie and Mark O'Meara and Nick Price and Tom Watson.

Price, the defending champion, has singled out O'Meara, as the greatest threat to his chance of landing a hat-trick in the event. Price was not too concerned about Woods. "Tiger

can do well if he manages his game correctly, but we will see how he does in that thick kuku rough," he said.

The six-times major winner, Nick Faldo, will test his emergence from a golfing abyss at what has been described as a brutal course for this week's Australian Open.

Royal Adelaide, a 6,015-yard, par-73 lay-out, has been turned into a monster by Australian golf's elder statesman, Peter Thomson, whose course re-modelling has been a hot topic in the lead-up to today's opening round.

Thomson has lengthened the course, added bunkers and narrowed landing zones. One local professional said of the toughened 'Royal Terror': "Thomson's lost his marbles. I've got more chance of winning the lottery than staying on a fairway here."

Faldo did not agree. "I have no criticisms of the course," he said. "I think it's awesome. It's the most challenging 18 holes I've played on. The rough is very thick. In some places you can miss a fairway by a yard, and you're unplayable."

Tyson faces threat of 20 years in jail

MIKE TYSON faces up to 20 years in prison after pleading "no contest" to two assault charges. The former world heavyweight champion's plea, which stemmed from a traffic accident in a Washington suburb on 31 August, is not an admission of guilt.

It does mean, however, that Tyson could be punished with 10 years in prison for each count when the judge, Steven Johnson, sentences him in January.

Tyson said he was neither promised leniency for his plea nor any special treatment in sentencing. He also said he was aware the plea could affect his probation status from a 1992 rape conviction, for which he served three years in prison. His probation period from the rape sentence ends in March.

Abmielec Saucedo and Richard Hardick reached an out-of-court settlement with Tyson to avoid a civil suit after claiming the fighter kicked and punched them after the traffic incident. "He admits to losing his temper on the side of the road," said Tyson's attorney, Paul Kemp.

Tyson had no comment on the case, but said he plans to

make his return to the ring in a fight next year against South Africa's Francois Botha. He had his boxing licence revoked by Nevada officials in July of last year after biting off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear during their world title fight.

Mike Callahan, the manager of the Ulsterman Eamonn Magee, yesterday lodged an official complaint with the Commonwealth Boxing Council following his boxer's controversial one-point defeat by Paul Burke on Monday. Burke, from Preston, won the Commonwealth light-welterweight title in Manchester, but there was heavy criticism of a 115-114 verdict by the referee, John Keane.

"The decision has been made and you have to accept it but, as I expected, the outcry has been immense," said Callahan. "As Eamonn Magee's manager I am obliged to lodge this complaint and seek... a rematch."

The British Boxing Board of Control secretary, John Morris, who acted as Commonwealth supervisor, admitted that he, too, was surprised by the verdict.

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The Independent and the Australian Tourist Commission have teamed up to offer one lucky reader and a friend or partner the chance not only to dine with some of Britain's most famous sporting heroes at the Sports Writers Association Annual Dinner at the London Hilton on Monday 14th December, but also the opportunity to fly to Sydney and visit the 2000 Olympic Games.

The 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney are set to generate unprecedented levels of interest. More than anything, Australians are famous for their obsession with sport. The continent has established its reputation as a leading sporting nation and is host to some of the world's most prestigious sporting events. So there's never been a better time to head Down Under and discover what Australia has to offer. Sportsworld, the British Olympic Associations appointed tour operator, has provided the winner with six nights' accommodation in a twin room and two event tickets. Sportsworld has a comprehensive range of programmes from fully inclusive packages to flight and ticket options. Call Sportsworld for full package details.

Qantas Airways is providing two return tickets to Sydney. Whether you're travelling on business or for pleasure, you'll find Qantas is a new experience in travelling. Everything about the service has been redesigned to provide even greater comfort and pleasure throughout your flight. Economy class travel is now more enjoyable than ever with completely redesigned ergonomic seats.

The Independent have selected 6 sporting personalities from those previously honoured over the past 50 years - all you have to do is to vote for one of the athletes who in your opinion has contributed the most to their sport. Phone the number opposite the name listed below and tell us on the line the reason for your selection and leave your name, full address and a daytime telephone number. You could be the lucky winner who receives a pair of tickets to the Sports Writers Association Dinner and your trip to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Winners of the Independent's selections below:

1. Sir Chris Chubb
2. Sir Peter Dinkley
3. Sir John Ingham
4. Sir John Ingham
5. Sir John Ingham
6. Sir John Ingham
7. Sir John Ingham
8. Sir John Ingham
9. Sir John Ingham
10. Sir John Ingham

Terms and Conditions:

1) Cash cost 60p per minute and should not be longer than two minutes. 2) Winners will be picked at random after the lines close at midnight on Sunday 6 December 1998. 3) There are no transfers, there are no substitute prizes or cash alternatives. 4) Normal Independent rules apply. 5) The Editor's decision is final. 6) All entrants must be aged 18 or over and have a valid passport and visa to travel. 7) Open to residents of the UK, Republic of Ireland and the Channel Islands, excluding employees of Independent Newspapers. Qantas Airways or Sportsworld Group PLC, their families, their agencies or any other company directly connected with the administration of this competition. 8) On entering the competition contestants are deemed to have accepted and agreed to be bound by the competition rules. Entry instructions form part of the rules. 9) The prize consists of 2 economy class tickets London - Sydney - London. The prize winner and their partner must travel together for the whole journey. Insurance is not included but must be provided. 10) All bookings subject to availability. Once booked no changes to be made without the consent of Qantas and without payment of the relevant charge. 11) Outbound flights must be taken during September 2000 inclusive. 12) Flights are subject to Qantas's Terms and Conditions of carriage and availability. 13) Exact travel dates, accommodation and event tickets to be subject to final agreement between Sportsworld and prize winners.

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Ashes tour: Promising young fast bowler repays England selectors by displaying willingness to learn

Tudor shows makings of a future king

POMMIE BASHING is a favourite pastime in Australia whatever the occasion. On an Ashes tour, it can reach epidemic proportions, with Aussies of both sexes sticking the verbal boot in. And yet every so often one of the English players manages to escape the derision and win over the locals. Four years ago, Darren Gough was the chosen one. This time it is Alex Tudor who has managed to corner the small market in affection for the old enemy.

The 21-year-old Tudor, you may recall, was picked in England's tour party to learn. A fast bowler who spent much of last summer nursing a stress fracture of the foot, Tudor was not expected to play much of an active part in the Test series. Fortunately, as tends to happen to most of England's plans, this one got torn up, and Tudor, a quick learner, made an impressive debut in the second Test in Perth.

Primarily a fast bowler, Tudor also impressed with his accuracy and he took five wickets, including the notable scalps of Steve and Mark Waugh. Naturally the pace and steep bounce of the pitch helped, but Tudor never once looked out of place, something that could not be said for many of his team-mates.

"Obviously I was overjoyed to make my debut and chuffed to have Steve Waugh as a first Test wicket," he said as England prepared to leave Perth for Melbourne, where they play Victoria on Saturday. "To be honest, it was a bit of a surprise to me that I was even on the tour. I remember switching on Ceefax, not to see if I was picked, but to see what players I'd make it. But now I'm here, I didn't come for a holiday."

Being pitched in so soon, the fast bowler did not really have time to get nervous. "I only found out in the morning, so I wasn't too bad. It helped that we batted first, especially as I was able to make a contribution and the runs definitely allowed me to settle. After that I

BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Perth

couldn't wait to get the ball in my hand."

In fact, the England captain apart, Tudor looked untroubled during his unbeaten 18, an impression he credits to working hard with Graham Gooch, as well as Mark Ramprakash, a man he refers to as his "own little batting coach."

"So often the tail's footwork has been static," he explains. "So I've been working hard to keep my footwork nimble and my knees bent." But if the tail's contribution with the bat has been a source of contention, it was with the ball that Tudor was always going to be judged.

If the nerves do not paralyse, there is always the temptation for debutants to reach beyond their grasp. Fortunately, Tudor recognised a moment when he was trying to bowl too fast and reined back. But if this showed

'When Dad and his mates get together they talk your ears off about cricket, so I've become used to listening'

maturity beyond his experience, there was a moment when he could have all gone horribly wrong.

Still wicketless, Tudor was asked to take the second new ball into the "Doctor" - the notorious wind that blows at the WACA. Sensing an opportunity to attack, Steve Waugh took three fours off him. It was a calculated assault and many would have been broken by it.

Tudor was not and he retorted not by banging it in short - belovied by many fast bowlers - but by pitching it up. Expecting something else, Waugh's footwork was a mess and the ball nipped back to hit the top of middle and off to give Tudor a memorable first Test scalp.

"There was a time when I would have moaned and eefed and blinded over such treatment. But Steve Bull, the team psychologist, has helped me a lot with that. As I now see it I've got lots of balls at my disposal, while the batsman has one mistake before he's back in the pavilion."

There is the makings of a wise young head there, but England have pitched young fast bowlers into Ashes tours before - with mixed results. In 1970-71, Bob Willis came out as a replacement and made his Test debut, going on to become England's leading strike bowler for the next 14 years.

Twelve years later Norman Cowans, bowled quick for four Tests, before settling for medium pace and a career in county cricket.

If ambition plays a key part in shaping destiny, Tudor is more likely to follow the Willis route than the one taken by Cowans.

"I've always wanted to be a fast bowler," he says, candidly admitting that his elder brother, Raymond, was the one with the talent. Five years older, Raymond was also on the Surrey staff before breaking down with a double stress fracture of the back.

Like many children growing up in England, Tudor did not have regular access to cricket at school. "We probably had four or five games a term," recalls Tudor, who went to school in Wandsworth. In fact it was his father's enthusiasm for the game that acted as his main inspiration, and he remembers being taken down to Alf Gover's indoor school with his brother for an hour on Saturday mornings.

"Coming from Barbados, Dad, like most West Indians, knows his stuff. He was good enough when he was younger to be invited to have trials for Barbados. When he moved to England he played for London Transport and the Barbados Cavaliers." Now father, like son, works at the Oval and



Alex Tudor's role models are the West Indian pacemen from the early Eighties

both he and Tudor's mother are expected here for Christmas. For a young man Tudor has a reputation as a good listener, and when not picking up tips from England's bowling coach, Bob Cowan, he speaks to his father by phone almost every other day.

"When Dad and his mates get together they talk your ears off about cricket, so I've become used to listening," he says with a chuckle. But if that is fairly untypical of modern youth, the fact that he neither smokes nor drinks, stands him apart.

His role models are the West Indies quicks from the early Eighties, bowlers like Joel Garner, Michael Holding, Malcolm Marshall, and Courtney Walsh. Indeed, he often talks to Walsh and Marshall, hoping for pointers.

Anyone who saw him bowl at the WACA, could not have failed to see there are elements of all these bowlers in him, not least that he is 6ft 5in tall and a strapping 15st. Yet Graham Gooch, wary of the expectations thrust on to young players starting out, is keen to play down any comparisons, at least for the time being.

"He's a young lad and I don't want to go overboard about him," Gooch said. "At the moment he's just clinging to that bottom rung of the Test match ladder. Obviously he's shown good potential and maturity and we're delighted with that. He's worked hard at both his technique and his fitness."

If Gooch is justifiably cautious in his outlook, it still takes a lot to impress an Aussie on his home patch. Ian Chappell, never one to pass round the compliments, said he felt Tudor had the makings of a good fast bowler. Mind you,

he also thought, by way of criticism, that the selectors would probably "stick him back in the deep freezer when you get to Adelaide, as they normally do."

He has a point. Horses for courses may be an appropriate motto when you have the riches to follow it, but England are not as blessed as their opponents. In fact when a potential thoroughbred is discovered, and Tudor has the makings, he must be allowed his head in all manner of conditions. Only then will he discover what is needed to win the race.

Jones won 36 consecutive finals in the 60m, 100m, 200m, 400m and long jump during the 1998 season before finishing second to Germany's Heike Drechsler in the long jump at the World Cup in Johannesburg, South Africa. Godina was a world leader in two events. He hurled the shot put 21.78m and threw the discus 69.9m.

Because of their prowess, the two are among the most highly sought track and field athletes in the world, but plan to compete less in 1999 than they did this year.

Since the 200m is the only one of Jones' three major events that will be a Grand Prix event next year, she plans to concentrate on that race leading up to the World Championships in Seville, Spain. There, she will go for four gold medals - in the 100m, 200m, long jump and a relay. She will miss the entire indoor season.

Godina will throw at only three indoor meets, including the USA Championships at Atlanta and the World Championships at Maebashi, Japan. He then will compete on a limited basis on the lucrative European circuit, so he will be at his peak in his quest for a shot-discus double at the World Championships.

Sprinter Jones feels the pressure

ATHLETICS

MARION JONES yesterday admitted to feeling the pressure of expectation on her to break the world sprint records of the late Florence Griffiths Joyner.

Her comments came after she won the Jesse Owens Memorial Award on Tuesday night as the outstanding woman athlete in the United States this year.

"I think the world records are possible, but I'm not going to say they're going to happen," the 23-year-old athlete said. "Before my career ends, maybe they will happen. But I don't need the pressure [of thinking about them]."

Joyner, who was known as Flo Jo and died earlier this year, set records of 10.49sec for the 100m and 21.34 sec for the 200m. This year, Jones ran 10.65 and 21.82.

Jones has been competing full-time for only 18 months. She, along with the men's Owens Award winner, John Godina, and some other young athletes, are being counted on to resurrect the sport in America.

"Track and field in the United States is in a terrible state," she said. "But the idea of the younger athletes trying to bring the sport back to the popularity of years ago is unfair. We can run fast, jump high and throw far, but somebody else has to contribute to bring back the sport. That's too much pressure [for us]."

Godina agreed. "It's unfair to heap the problems in the sport on people who were not there when the problems began," Godina, 26, said. "It's a challenge, but I think it can be brought back."

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Stewart calls on father's expertise to recover form

ALEC STEWART has turned to his father, Micky, in an attempt to iron out the flaws in his batting which have prevented the England captain making an impact during the opening two Ashes Tests.

Stewart has made just one half century in eight first-class innings on tour and 49 runs in his four Test appearances at the stumps, completing a miserable match in Perth with a second-innings duck to hasten Eng-

land's slide to a seven-wicket deficit inside three days.

However, he was one of a handful of players at optional nets at the WACA yesterday and utilised the expertise of his father, the former England coach, who is in Australia on holiday to watch his son's first Ashes series as captain. The pair had two sessions and spent time talking together about Stewart's technical flaws since arriving in Australia.

"We always have a couple of sessions a year," Micky said. "We usually get together before a tour and again after a tour just to have a look at things and how he's playing."

The captain has never scored a century against Australia and averages a mere 25 in Ashes games compared with 41 against other opponents; of only nine single-figure scores made in an unbroken run of 30 Tests, seven have come against them.

Yet he insisted yesterday that he was not over-concerned about his form. "He [Micky] knows my game better than anyone so it makes sense to use him while he's here."

Stewart's Surrey team-mate Graham Thorpe was also at the nets struggling to rediscover the brilliant form which marked his start to the tour, but was interrupted by fresh concerns about his troublesome back.

Thorpe had surgery during

last summer to correct the back spasms which had dogged him for over a year, but after the long flight from Brisbane to Perth for the second Test he woke up the following day with stiffness which restricted his mobility. After four days' rest and acupuncture treatment, Thorpe returned to the nets yesterday in an attempt to prove his fitness for this weekend's match against Victoria in Melbourne.

He came through unscathed to put himself in line for selection, providing his back stands up to today's three and a half hour flight.

"I feel as if I have been playing fine on the tour," Thorpe said, "but it gets a little bit frustrating when you have to sit down for a few days and miss out. I have to keep working on my fitness to build my stamina up to get through games on a regular basis. The reason you

get frustrated by it is because you don't really know what's wrong."

"The operation I had two and a half months ago came after 10 years of playing virtually constant cricket but it gets to a stage where maybe it's a little bit harder doing that."

"Maybe in six months' time it will be fine again playing on a day to day basis but at the moment I am working bloody hard to get through it all."

WINDSOR

HYPERION

12.40 NEMISTO (nap) 1.10 Hawaiian Youth (nb) 1.40 Floristan 2.10 River Leam 2.40 Queen's Ride 3.10 Grasp The Nettle 3.40 Another Night

GOING: Good to Soft (Good on top loop).
Level with sharp turn, on ASOE near junction 6 of M4. Stations at Windsor Central (service from London, Paddington) and Windsor Riverside (service from London, Watlington). River bus stops at course, ADMIRAL (SNDN), Club City, Tattersalls, Silver Ring, CAR PARK, Club City, Windsor, 11.40. Tattersalls, Silver Ring, CAR PARK, Club City, Windsor, 11.40.

LEADING TRAINERS: K Bailey 15-46 (26.2%), N Henderson 8-39 (20.5%), Miles H Knight 8-59 (13.8%), A Turnbull 6-37 (20.4%).
LEADING JOCKEYS: M A Fitzgerald 10-50 (52%), J F Tully 8-47 (77%), P McKeay 7-29 (51%), M Richards 7-71 (89%).

FAVOURITES: 64-234 (52%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

12.40 FAREWELL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV 1) £3,000 added 2m

1 15 GREYAN DART (19) (D) N Henderson 8 71 5 M A Fitzgerald
2 16 CHINCHAGHOCK (25) (D) M Wadd 5 10 2 J F Tully
3 17 KNUYVEN (10) (D) K Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
4 18 NEMISTO (10) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
5 19 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
6 20 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
7 21 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
8 22 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
9 23 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
10 24 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
11 25 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
12 26 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully

SETTING: 10-11 Greysan Dart, 9-10 N Henderson, 8-11 M A Fitzgerald, 7-10 Chinchaghock, 6-11 Knuymen, 5-10 Nemisto, 4-11 Prince of Peace, 3-10 Prince of Peace, 2-11 Prince of Peace, 1-10 Prince of Peace.

FORM VERDICT

A couple of interesting possibilities, notably Super Monarch, among the untroubledly-changed types, but GREYAN DART has acquired himself well enough in stronger company recently to suggest that he will be difficult to beat at this level. Nemisto should get into the money.

1.10 ROUS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 5f

1 21 INJECTORBACK (19) (D) K Bailey 8 12 7 M A Fitzgerald
2 22 HAWAIIAN YOUTH (25) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
3 23 PHILATELIC (21) (D) K Bailey 8 12 7 M A Fitzgerald
4 24 NEMISTO (10) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
5 25 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
6 26 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
7 27 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
8 28 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
9 29 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
10 30 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
11 31 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
12 32 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully

SETTING: 11-12 Greysan Dart, 10-11 N Henderson, 9-10 Chinchaghock, 8-11 Knuymen, 7-10 Nemisto, 6-11 Prince of Peace, 5-10 Prince of Peace, 4-11 Prince of Peace, 3-10 Prince of Peace, 2-11 Prince of Peace, 1-10 Prince of Peace.

FORM VERDICT

A market move for long-absent Injectorback would be significant - Jim Bailey has landed this odd gamble in similar circumstances in the past - but his lack of experience over fences is a worry, and this probably rests between Philatelic and SCORE GIRL. The last named could be well in and, though lacking a recent outing, the booking of Alan Dempsey is a positive sign.

1.40 FAREWELL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV 1) £3,000 added 2m

1 450 BANJO HILL (25) (D) Wadd 5 10 2 J F Tully
2 451 BROWN HILL (25) (D) Wadd 5 10 2 J F Tully
3 452 CHINCHAGHOCK (25) (D) Wadd 5 10 2 J F Tully
4 453 KNUYVEN (10) (D) K Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
5 454 NEMISTO (10) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
6 455 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
7 456 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
8 457 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
9 458 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
10 459 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
11 460 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
12 461 PRINCE OF PEACE (17) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully

SETTING: 11-12 Greysan Dart, 10-11 N Henderson, 9-10 Chinchaghock, 8-11 Knuymen, 7-10 Nemisto, 6-11 Prince of Peace, 5-10 Prince of Peace, 4-11 Prince of Peace, 3-10 Prince of Peace, 2-11 Prince of Peace, 1-10 Prince of Peace.

FORM VERDICT

Marley the weaker of the two divisions of the event, and probably within the capabilities of lightly-raced COPPER COIN, who can improve on his form to date.

2.10 BDO STOD HAYWARD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m

1 35F PU ROBIN PRIDE (19) (D) C Popham 8 10 2 M A Fitzgerald
2 11P20 BEYOND OUR REACH (24) (D) R Hodges 10 10 6 J F Tully
3 11P20 BEYOND OUR REACH (24) (D) R Hodges 10 10 6 J F Tully
4 21C1 BUCKLAND LAD (27) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
5 45P20 REVER LEVIN (14) (D) D Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
6 45P20 REVER LEVIN (14) (D) D Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
7 45P20 REVER LEVIN (14) (D) D Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
8 45P20 REVER LEVIN (14) (D) D Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
9 45P20 REVER LEVIN (14) (D) D Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
10 45P20 REVER LEVIN (14) (D) D Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
11 45P20 REVER LEVIN (14) (D) D Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
12 45P20 REVER LEVIN (14) (D) D Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully

SETTING: 6-4 Buckland Lad, 13-6 Beyond Our Reach, 11-2 Robins Pride, 6-1 River Leam, 20-1 Muckhill.

FORM VERDICT

An interesting title race. Popham could be the key, and ROBINS PRIDE, who should look nothing in the contest and is well in on the pick of his form last season, is just preferred to Buckland Lad.

2.40 OMEGA MARES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m

1 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
2 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
3 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
4 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
5 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
6 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
7 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
8 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
9 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
10 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
11 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully
12 22K11 HEARTY (15) (D) M Knight 4 10 2 J F Tully

SETTING: 4-7 Heart, 15-4 Queen's Ride, 14-1 Miles Pennyhill, 20-1 Rosehill.

FORM VERDICT

It is difficult to get away from the fact that in the betting, Slouly-bred Queen's Ride would probably approach a better test of stamina, and may struggle to get to HEARTY, who made much of the running last time and is supposed to hold the tactical reins.

3.10 HUGGY BEAR NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m

1 15 GRASP THE NETTLE (19) (D) K Bailey 8 10 2 J F Tully
2 32C2 IVORY COASTER (25) (D) B De Haan 7 10 2 J F Tully
3 22P JAZZMAN (25) (D) G Dutton 5 10 2 J F Tully
4 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
5 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
6 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
7 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
8 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
9 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
10 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
11 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
12 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully

SETTING: 11-12 Tompette, 5-4 Grasp The Nettle, 7-6 Jazzman, 10-1 Ivory Coast, 12-1 Sepassidore, 20-1 Opereck, 20-1 Sepassidore, 20-1 Opereck.

FORM VERDICT

An unattractive betting medium, with grounds for opposing all the principals - Grasp The Nettle may require softer going, Jazzman is from a yard out of form and TOMPETTE, who is the clear pick on running form, not looking a natural at this grade. The last-named is a tentative choice in the hope that he will have learned from his last experience.

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Nap: Mile A Minute (Windsor 3.40)

NB: Sudest (Windsor 12.40)

3.40 NORWEGIAN BLUE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 added 2m 4f

1 34P20 GARWIN (19) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
2 32C2 IVORY COASTER (25) (D) B De Haan 7 10 2 J F Tully
3 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
4 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
5 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
6 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
7 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
8 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
9 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
10 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
11 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully
12 45P20 LAYTON DOR (15) (D) J Luck 8 10 2 J F Tully

SETTING: 11-12 Tompette, 5-4 Grasp The Nettle, 7-6 Jazzman, 10-1 Ivory Coast, 12-1 Sepassidore, 20-1 Opereck, 20-1 Sepassidore, 20-1 Opereck.

FORM VERDICT

A weak race. Nordansk ran well on his hurdling return, but ANOTHER NIGHT might have a little improvement in his return more patently and his stamina will not raise so severe an examination here.

CATTERICK

Going: Good (Good to Firm in places)

1.00: (2m handicap hurdle)
1. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
2. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
3. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
4. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
5. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
6. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
7. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
8. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
9. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
10. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
11. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
12. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully

SETTING: 11-12 Tompette, 5-4 Grasp The Nettle, 7-6 Jazzman, 10-1 Ivory Coast, 12-1 Sepassidore, 20-1 Opereck, 20-1 Sepassidore, 20-1 Opereck.

FORM VERDICT

A couple of interesting possibilities, notably Super Monarch, among the untroubledly-changed types, but GREYAN DART has acquired himself well enough in stronger company recently to suggest that he will be difficult to beat at this level. Nemisto should get into the money.

1.00: (2m handicap hurdle)

1. JESSICA ONE (11) (D) N Henderson 8 12 2 J F Tully
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12

30/FOOTBALL

Kenwright's passion play

AS BILL KENWRIGHT began the enormous task of raising the cash to buy Everton Football Club yesterday his mind went back to the man who was to blame. Mr Parry was his name, and he unwittingly played a significant part in this week's events when he took a pupil to Goodison to see the club's reserves draw 1-1 with Chesterfield in the early 1950s.

"If at the age of five or six I'd become a red my whole life would have changed," Kenwright, 53, said, sounding almost regretful. Instead that mysterious emotional jolt that locks football devotion chose blue and means he is now negotiating to buy part or all of the 68 per cent share in the club owned by the former chairman

BY GUY HODGSON

Peter Johnson, a decision that will require £50m at a conservative estimate.

Last night Kenwright, who has become the club's deputy chairman, was meeting Lord Grantchester, grandson of the former Everton benefactor Sir John Moores. "I wouldn't bet against me taking over the club by the end of the season," he said. "Nothing has happened, please understand that. We're talking about a phone call on Monday and a couple of conversations. All I can say is if Peter is looking into his shareholding then I'll be looking into it, too."

"Over the last year I have had inquiries from nearly all the people mentioned in the news-

papers for me to lead their bids. I have always gone to the chairman before and he has said the club is not for sale. Now he's saying differently and I have a list of potential backers."

Kenwright, along with Everton's reinstated chairman, Sir Philip Carter, was making his first public appearance since Johnson stepped down on Monday after four and a half years in charge, during which the club has had four managers and flirted regularly with relegation. The club also has reported debts of £20m.

In spring 1994 Kenwright backed out of a struggle with Johnson fearing prolonged uncertainty would damage the club, but yesterday he said he was ready to assume control.

"Four years ago I wasn't sure I was the right man to take Everton into the future," he said. "Now I'm pretty sure I am."

Even so Kenwright, a former Coronation Street actor who has made his money producing West End plays, admitted that his heart rather than his head was dictating his actions. "My mum phones me up and says 'son, don't' and Sam Hammam, who is a great friend, rang me up yesterday to say I should think very seriously before I do it. Four years ago my bid included my house, everything I had, so that was the risk. I take risks but I can't think of anything in life that I'd risk more on."

Johnson, who is on holiday in the Caribbean, left after a dispute with the club's manager,

Walter Smith, over the £7m sale of Duncan Ferguson to Newcastle last week. The decision, taken without Smith's knowledge, infuriated supporters but was defended yesterday by Kenwright.

"I didn't know it was going to happen," he said, "but I would have supported the decision as I would have supported Duncan going last season. There were times, and any Evertonian would have been the same, where you discuss 'will we ever win anything with the long ball game?' Duncan was a hero of mine but you had to ask yourself would we do better with someone else in the middle?"

"The fans' reaction reminds me so much of when I was 11 and Dave Hickson was trans-

ferred to Aston Villa. I wrote a letter to all the directors saying 'You know nothing about football, how can you let him go?' I told them I was boycotting the club, which lasted all of 24 hours. I understand the supporters' fury but there was a part of me that understood." It is that same angry boy who is now attempting to be the dominant force on the board he chastised.

Kenwright wants stability at Everton. He could not put a time frame on any potential takeover - Johnson is understood to be unwilling to sell until February for tax reasons - but he said that money is available if Smith wishes to buy a player. Most of all he wants an end to the bitterness of recent weeks.

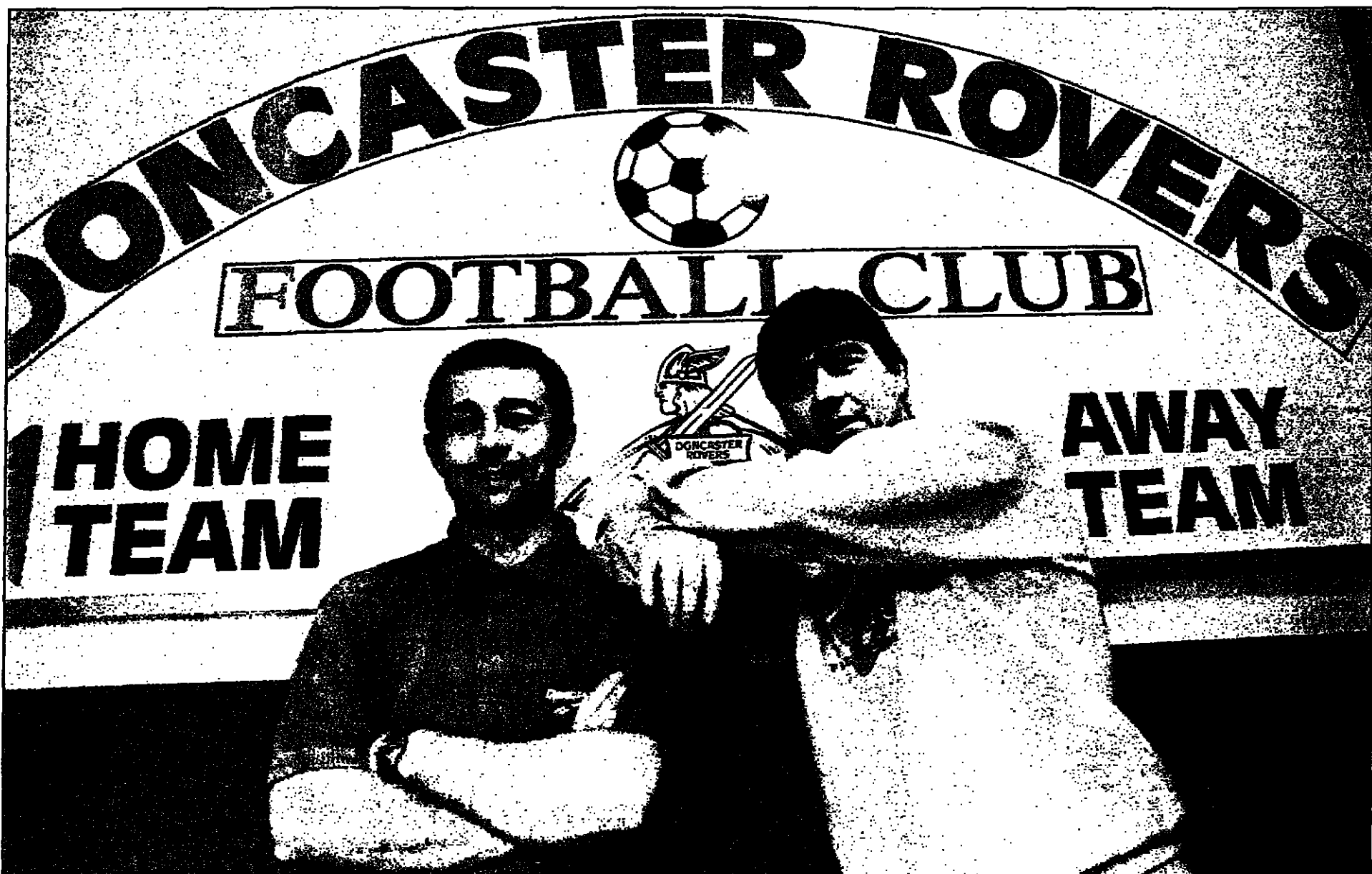
"How many times do you



New regime: Bill Kenwright (left) and Phillip Carter

think I've been on a train at 11 o'clock at night when we've lost? Just think how many games we've won in the last few years. Bad times, good times, it's like what's good sex, what's bad sex - it's Everton. There's nowhere else I want to be on a Saturday at 3pm. It's an addiction. Bad times? As long as it's with Everton."

"Of course I desperately want the good times. At Charlton on Saturday before the game I saw Evertonians in the rain with their heads down. They don't look up. You just want to smile, have a laugh again and most of all forget this hideous, hideous talk of violence. That's not Everton. This is not a good club, it's a great club."



Glynn (left) and Ian Snodin, respectively coach and player-manager at Doncaster Rovers, who are hoping for a full house against Rushden on Saturday

Peter Jay

Snodins savouring sibling revelry

SUBSTITUTIONS CAN be a tricky business, with the ego of the player hauled off often more bruised than any shin or shoulder.

When the protagonists are brothers, as well as being player-manager and coach respectively, sparks can fly.

Ian and Glynn Snodin are not exactly a footballing Cane and Abel, or even a latterday Jack and Bobby. They did, however, have what Glynn, the coaching half of the duo, describes as "a bit of a falling-out" during Doncaster Rovers' recent FA Cup match at Southend United.

As befits a story of sibling revelry, which has brought the brothers back to their first love after careers spent mainly at the highest level, the situation was doubly unusual. Not only were Doncaster, the Football Conference's bottom club, on their way to a rare win that would earn Saturday's second-round home tie against Rushden & Diamonds, but Ian's complaint was that he was being told to stay on.

Glynn, who at 38 is three years Ian's senior, explained. "At half-time we thought it would be him coming off be-

cause he's been playing with an injury. But Southend were coming back into it so I decided we needed his experience. Our strikers had worked hard and one was looking tired. But when the number came up and it wasn't Ian's he didn't like it. I was 100 yards away in the directors' box and could hear every word he said."

In fact, the brothers' relationship has remained close since they played together as teenagers for Doncaster during Billy Bremner's first spell as manager nearly two decades ago. Ian, who represented England Under-21s while still at Belle Vue, gained a championship medal with Everton and would have won a senior cap in 1989 but for typical ill luck with injury. Glynn served Leeds and Sheffield Wednesday with distinction.

Last season, when Doncaster made the Third Division relegation place their own from the start, the Snodins were at Scarborough. Glynn was on

the backroom staff but Ian played in a poignant match against his old club. "We won 4-0 and I felt really sorry for the Rovers fans. They were shouting: 'Go on Ian, let a goal in. Help us a bit.'"

The chance to do exactly that came late in the close season. The new owners of the debt-stricken club brought Ian in - he still lived in the town - and he promptly went back for Glynn. "I wanted him here because he's an exceptional coach," Ian said. "He can boss me around in training because I'm also a player, and I'm happy to do whatever he tells me to. I leave all the substitutions to him on match days too. If I can't trust Glynn, I can't trust anybody."

It was like coming home to a vandalised stum. Doncaster's rusting, rotting ground needed thousands of pounds' worth of work just to get a safety certificate. There were no goalposts and no balls, no kit or practice facilities. And, with the Conference kick-off only a

fortnight away, Ian inherited a squad of five.

Most players available on free transfers had been picked up, so he had to improvise. "I watched a lad called Kevin McIntyre play for Tranmere reserves on the Wednesday before our opening match at Dover. On the Friday took him on loan. We picked him up at Watford Gap. I saw someone who looked like a footballer and told him to get on the bus."

The brothers' return, allied to the end of the despised regime of Ken Richardson, fired the public imagination. Before Doncaster's first home game, against Southport, the police came to the dressing-room to warn Ian that kick-off would be delayed due to the numbers queuing outside.

"Normally a manager would be unhappy about his preparations being disrupted. I was made up because it showed we had the people behind us. They had gates of 700-odd last season and only got 3,500 for the

final game because people thought there would be no more Doncaster Rovers. We're averaging that figure in non-League, which is fantastic."

The support is all the more impressive in view of the disappointing results. To Glynn, the first eight Conference fixtures were "like the pre-season friendlies we never had", but the performance at Southend was indicative of the way the side are beginning to gel. Ian agrees: "To see a team we built from scratch beat a League club on their own ground was an incredible feeling."

Among the disparate talents thrown together are a Tunisian, a Spaniard and a veteran Scot. Steve Nicol, 37 next week, has three FA Cup winners' medals, one from the European Cup, four championship games, 27 caps and a Footballer of the Year trophy (as well as the biggest feet in football, size 14). His commitment, according to the manager, has been total. "Steve's miles ahead in the

supporters' player of the year rankings. He won more or less everything at Liverpool but, when we were celebrating at Southend, he was leading the singing."

If Nicol thought his days of playing to full houses were over, the meeting of opposites with Rushden & Diamonds may prove him wrong. "They're the Manchester United of the Conference," said Ian Snodin. "They're miles ahead of everyone in terms of resources. We can't compete with them financially, but we will compete with them as a team."

Glynn is equally determined to bridge the gap, knowing a lucrative third-round tie could make the difference in the push for safety that has become their priority. "The challenge here is massive but they couldn't have got two better people to take it on because we're passionate about Doncaster Rovers."

"The fans want success straight away and we do too, though we need to stabilise and survive this season before we can think about getting back into the League. But we can see a light at the end of the tunnel. We'll get there."

FA to monitor Millwall after crowd trouble

BY WYN GRIFFITHS

MILLWALL HAVE been found guilty of failing to control spectators following pitch invasions during their match against Manchester City earlier this season. However, the Second Division side have escaped punishment after the incidents during the League match at the New Den on 29 September. The south Londoners have been warned about their future conduct and the Football Association will continue to monitor the situation with the club.

After a hearing lasting more than six hours, an FA crowd control commission said it was impressed by Millwall's determination to prevent any further problems. The match referee, Matt Messias, gave evidence to the commission about the pitch invasions and incidents of coin throwing during the second half of the 1-1 draw.

Police Superintendent Trevor Brydges said there had been four invasions during the game and police had to stop fans reaching players and officials after Manchester City scored a late equaliser. Part of the trouble was blamed on hooligans from other London clubs attending the game. The bad-tempered match also featured a mass brawl between the opposing players, sparked after City's Tony Vaughan and Millwall's Paul Shaw were sent off in the 77th minute.

Six other players were booked after the scuffle - three from each side - and a furious City manager, Joe Royle, said at the time: "The home fans were refereeing at times." Royle also claimed some of his players had been spat at and threatened.

Of more immediate concern to Royle is securing the ser-

vices of Rolf Landri, the Austrian attacker who turned out for City in a reserve game on Tuesday night and is poised to clinch a move from the Dutch side AZ Alkmaar. The swift right-sided player is seen by Royle as an alternative to Craig Hignett, who joined Barnsley last week. He is available for around £200,000.

The Southampton manager, Dave Jones, is giving a trial to the French defender Kwami Hodouto. The 24-year-old Auxerre centre half has been training with the Saints this week and is expected to play for the reserves before Jones makes a decision on whether to make an offer for him. Hodouto, who played for Cannes before joining Auxerre in 1997, is available for a fee of around £300,000.

Southampton have also made the first move in their scheme for a new 32,000-seater stadium and have submitted plans to the City Council for a £21m ground to be built within three years.

Jean-Michel Ferri has no chance of making his Liverpool debut at Spurs on Saturday. The £1.7m defensive midfielder has been training on his own at the club this week after arriving at Anfield short of match fitness, after being out of action for a month because of a dispute over wages with his previous club, Istanbulspor.

The former Bradford City manager, Chris Kamara, had turned down an offer to manage the Barbados national side. Kamara, who was sacked by Stoke City last season, has been busy with television and radio work but wants to return to domestic management.

Reimann resigns as Nuremberg coach

WILLI REIMANN resigned as the coach of the German First Division strugglers Nuremberg yesterday, saying he had to devote all his attention to his seriously ill wife. Reimann took over just before the start of the season and the club is currently 15th in the 18-team Bundesliga.

"This decision was especially hard to take because of our difficult situation," said Reimann. "But one of the main factors behind the decision was the idea that the team needs a coach who can devote all his strength to it, unburdened by private problems."

The assistant coach, Thomas

Brunner, will take over temporarily.

The Brazilian club, Flamengo, bought large advertising spaces in leading newspapers yesterday to taunt rivals Vasco over their 2-1 World Club title defeat by Real Madrid in Tokyo. "The nation congratulates Vasco da Gama for the title of world vice-champions in its centenary year," said the advertisements in several Rio dailies. The ads were signed "Flamengo Regattas Club, World champions", referring to the fact that Flamengo, initially founded as a rowing club, won the title in 1981.

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DAY'S FIXTURE

FOOTBALL

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SPORT



TUDOR THE WOULD-BE KING P29 • JONES BACK FROM THE DARK P26

Lens fracas leads to ban for Dixon

LEE DIXON has been given a one-match suspension and will miss Arsenal's Champions' League match with Panathinaikos in Athens next Wednesday, after an investigation by Uefa, European football's ruling body, into the full-back's red card during the bad-tempered game against Lens at Wembley last week.

The former England full-back was left in apparent agony on the Wembley turf after an angry exchange in stoppage time with Lens' Tony Vairelles, which resulted in Vairelles being sent off. Although Dixon was not booked by the referee, Anders Frisk, Uefa's Control and Disciplinary committee yesterday ruled that he started the trouble by elbowing his opponent in the back.

Vairelles and the Lens coach, Daniel Leclercq, accused Dixon of feigning injury to get the French international striker sent off - just seconds after the Arsenal midfielder Ray Parlour was given a red card for kicking out at the Lens midfielder, Cyril Rool.

It is the second time Arsenal have suffered retrospective punishment in their ill-fated Champions' League campaign. The French midfielder Emmanuel Petit, who was suspended from the Lens game after Uefa decided that the Italian referee, Piero Ceccarini, should have booked him in the match against Dynamo Kiev three weeks earlier. Nigel Winterburn had mistakenly been shown a yellow card for a foul which Petit had committed.

Dixon could be suspended for even longer when Uefa's disciplinary committee meets again in January to also ratify the complete list of players to be suspended for knock-out stage of the European Cup, which begins in March.

A Uefa spokesman said:

FOOTBALL BY BILL PIERCE

"After studying the referee's detailed report and also that of the Uefa delegate, we have decided that disciplinary action must be taken even if the referee was not able to see gross unsporting conduct and was therefore unable to take any factual decision."

Arsenal declined to comment on the decision last night. Lens, who launched an appeal against Vairelles' red card, have also lost out. Uefa confirmed that he will be suspended "for unsporting behaviour" and will miss their vital meeting with Dynamo Kiev in France next Wednesday, when the two teams contest top place in Group E, which earns automatic qualification for the quarter-finals.

The Uefa spokesman confirmed: "It will be a one-match only suspension for Vairelles." Dixon and Parlour could still receive longer bans, though. Uefa confirmed that Parlour will be suspended "for at least one match" for his red card but they have also deemed his offence as "an act of violence" and look certain to extend the ban to at least three games when they meet again in January.

Defeat by Lens at Wembley ensured Arsenal's exit from the Champions' League, no matter what the result of their encounter with Panathinaikos next week. Any further suspension for Parlour and Dixon would be carried over to the next time they qualify for European competition.

Lens and Dynamo Kiev are set to appeal to Uefa to ensure that Arsenal's manager, Arsène Wenger, fields his strongest available team against Panathinaikos. The game is virtually meaningless to Arsenal, but if Panathinaikos beat them heavily the Greek side can still finish

top of Group E if Dynamo and Lens draw in France.

Dion Dublin has won his fight with Coventry City to have a £30,000 fine paid back to him for going on strike during his transfer dispute with the club.

The Aston Villa and England striker appealed to the Premier League to get his maximum penalty of a fine of two weeks' wages overturned. Dublin was furious that Coventry had punished him when he refused to play at Luton in a Worthington Cup tie at the height of his troubles with the club.

He claimed that he was told by the chairman, Bryan Richardson, that he had been given permission to talk to Blackburn the day before. Dublin was considering the contract offer from Rovers and did not want to risk an injury at Luton.

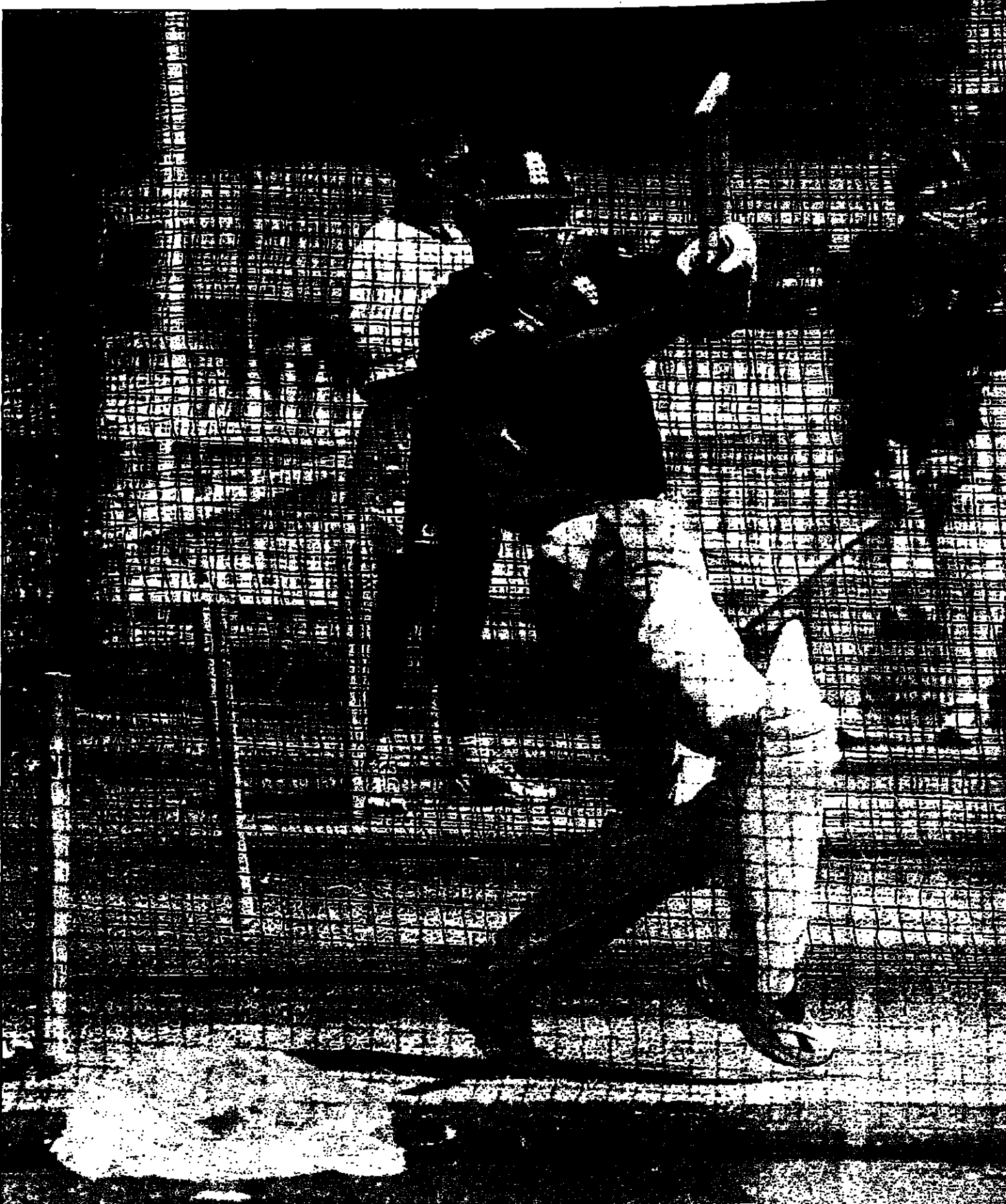
However, the Coventry manager, Gordon Strachan, was keen for Dublin to play, and has stated that the striker pulled out of the fixture against his wishes. Dublin was fined for being in breach of contract before eventually leaving for Villa and securing a deal worth around £30,000 a week in the £4.5m transfer.

Despite his new salary, Dublin wanted his fine back on a point of principle. There was so much bad blood between him and the club that it became a question of honour, he said.

Dublin's case was heard by a Premier League enquiry in London, with Strachan and Richardson also giving their version of events. A Premier League spokesman said last night: "Dion Dublin has been found not guilty of the offence. Coventry have the right to appeal if they wish."

The result is a vindication of Dublin's actions and a further blow to Richardson, who lost the player and threatened that he had "not heard the last" of the transfer row.

Recovering Thorpe puts his back into net practice



Graham Thorpe was glad to get back into the nets at the WACA in Perth yesterday in an effort to prove his fitness before the Third Test at Adelaide. Thorpe missed England's defeat in the second Test because of a recurring back spasm. Report, page 29

Allsport

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD
No. 3784 Thursday 3 December By Spurius Wednesday's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

ACROSS

- Husband's exploit, after operation's over (8)
- Fruit grower finally managed to put through reductions (8)
- Horse-drawn transport for male directors (9)
- Say nothing when in five diamonds (5)
- Short measure accepted by honest fund manager (7)
- Ease wherewithal with 'swallow' by clergyman - not half (7)
- Glint from bangle, amber (5)
- Again repeated mistakes with Early English decor around front of hall (2-6)
- Eye, perhaps, seasonal confection? (5,3)
- Pilgrimage centre in Middle East, one hundreds

DOWN

- Will enter (5)
- Crucially important books artist left behind after church (7)
- Recipients of early deliveries (7)
- Get cross when address system fails at first (5)
- Get very excited and tense, fiercely running around (9)
- Determined but defeated contestant returned by truck (8)
- Trojan caught leaving a seance irregularly (6)
- Wise to admit heartless prelate's causing malicious damage (8)
- Che Doc's puzzled about, being cut off (7)
- Journalist's account features cat, one that's very small (9)
- Having tiny bust but big bottom? (14)
- Acres, perhaps, in two US states, on lake (5)
- Simply shown by Sinai veteran (7)
- Metal spike featured in series about gardens (6)
- Airly we tell partner about end of house being damp-proofed (5-9)
- Man taking American over Oxford college short by develops foot problem (6-3)
- Middle-of-the-road types, of a reflective disposition (4-4)
- The knocks you get in life? (7)
- Garment with border is accepted in church (7)
- Cake, with zero calorie content, maybe? (6)
- Richard of York, as leader, primarily? (5)

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTION

LOBELIA CLAYTON
O U U R N R N E
R O W A N D R A M A T H I S
G W G E I T I T I
E P I C E N T R E C L E A N
L N O E U
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T A R N I S H E S T A B L E
L E D O B E
O D D N E S S S A L I E N T

Formula One circus invades Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, THE symbol of American motor racing, was confirmed yesterday as the venue for Formula One's return to the United States in 2000.

The sport's impresario Bernie Ecclestone, anxious to bolster the credibility of the world championship, has agreed a long-term deal with the circuit that stages the Indianapolis 500, part of the IndyCar series.

America's first Formula One race for nine years will not, however, be run on the famous two and a half mile (four-kilometre) oval, but on a new track to be constructed especially for grand prix cars. No date has been fixed but it is understood that officials in Indianapolis prefer an autumn race to distance it from their traditional main

MOTOR RACING BY DERICK ALLSOP

attraction, late in May. Ecclestone, who also considered proposals from San Francisco and Las Vegas, said: "I know they [Indianapolis] will do what we want and we're honoured to be invited to race at the Speedway. It was the No 1 target."

Drivers will have to negotiate a 13-turn course, partly using the oval, but running clockwise on it, the reverse of the direction used for the Indianapolis 500. It will be the first Formula One race in the United States since Ayrton Senna won at Phoenix in 1991.

Indianapolis was traditionally used for only one event a

year: the Indianapolis 500 at the end of May. But in 1994, the speedway added the Brickyard 400, which has become one of the five big events in American stock-car racing. The addition of a road course to the oval will be the first major reconfiguration since it was built in 1909.

The Indianapolis 500 was considered an official Formula One event from 1950 to 1960 despite the fact that very few of the Formula One regulars competed in the event. Notwithstanding the Indianapolis 500, a US Grand Prix race was a regular fixture on the Formula One circuit from 1959 to 1991, with some years including two events and in 1982 three. But declining attendances and interest failed to attract an organiser after 1991.

Germans sign up Cuba team

MANCHESTER UNITED have followed the recent trend of forging links with a foreign team to provide their players with experience and, perhaps, bring some new blood into Old Trafford.

Never mind Antwerp, now a German Fourth Division club has gone one better by joining forces with an entire country, Cuba.

Bonner SC, based in Bonn, intend to give a completely new meaning to open-door policies in international football - by signing the entire Cuban national team. The idea being that their inclusion will help them gain promotion.

BY ALEC STOUT

A club delegation will travel to Cuba on Sunday for talks with Cuban football federation officials, according to German newspaper reports yesterday. They hope to sign a deal by next Wednesday.

In return for allowing the entire team to practice and play in Germany, the Cubans would receive balls, boots, kit and other equipment.

The Bonn club could release any players on loan, but the transfer rights would remain with the Cuban federation. The Cubans would come with their coach, William Ben-

nett, and would also play exhibition games against smaller European nations. The Cubans would still be available for all World Cup qualifying games under the extravagant proposal.

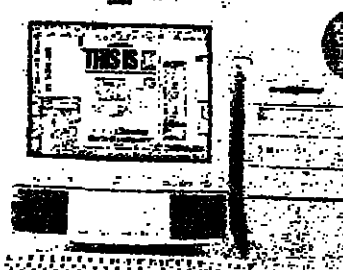
"The Cubans want to develop their team and let it learn tactics in Europe," Hans Viol, the Bonner SC chairman told a Bonn newspaper.

Rainer Thomas, the Bonner SC coach, said that he would retain the core of his current team and that the Cubans would practice separately. "Maybe three, maybe eight" could make the starting line-up, Thomas said.

Starting this Saturday in
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